WAR. DIARY.

1.10.39 to 27.12.39

2ND. COPIES.

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1.10. 1939 - 27.12.1939

War Diary.

1.10.39.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

SUZON sunk.	1850	Belgian S.S. SUZON (2239 tons) was sunk by torpedo from s/m 42 miles North of Ushant. Crew rescued by ACHERON.

S/ms reported.

a.m. 1030	By Dutch S.S. JURA off Galloper Lt.V. 51°44'N.2°E. 48°43' N. 4° 58' W. Portuguese S.S.ALFERREDE was stopped by U-boat.
0730	70 miles N.E. Ushant, Greek GEORG EMBIRICOS was stopped, papers examined, allowed to proceed.
p.m.	5 miles off Naze, Norway, 57°53' N. 7° 2' E, Finnish S.S. FRITZ sighted submarine steering east.
?	Estonian S.S. JAAK sighted unknown submarine 8 miles off Okso Lt. Norway, 57° 55' N. 8° 2' E.

S/ms attacked.

1455	51° 12½' N. 4° 22' W. ECLIPSE attacked with 1 D/C, some trace of oil. Further 2 D/C's, no further evidence. Fair contact. (I.C.0221/39).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

~~The news~~ (M.O. 16672/39. H.M.S. EXETER L. of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39), the news that a German raider was operating off the East coast of South America in the Pernambuco area was received by Commodore South America Division (Commodore H.H. Harwood) at 2130/1/10, subsequent signals stated that the S.S. CLEMENT had been sunk about 75 miles South of Pernambuco by the ADMIRAL SCHEER. Cdre. S.A.D. was not at all sure at this stage whether it really had been a pocket battleship and was reluctant to abandon completely the Plate area, owing to the very large amount of valuable British shipping there. He thought it possible that the appearance of a raider to the Northward was intended to draw him away from the focal points of trade.

0340/2/10 Cdre. S.A.D. informed C.-in-C. S.A. that he intended to concentrate EXETER and AJAX sending HOTSPUR to cover Rio de Janeiro - Santos area and keeping HAVOC in Plate for same purpose. (Note. at 1930/1/10 Cdre. S.A.D. received Adty. 1859/1/10 ordering 4th Destroyer Division to be retained in South Atlantic; this message cancelled Adty. 1329/28/9 ordering the 4th Division to be withdrawn from South Atlantic owing to serious shortage of destroyers at home). Sailings of merchant vessels at Rio de Janeiro and Santos were suspended for four days, to give time for HOTSPUR to arrive in that area, which had now been vacated by AJAX who was ordered to join Cdre. S.A.D. in 32° 40'S 48°W at 1700/3/10. The R.F.A. oiler OLWEN was ordered to proceed to Montevideo using mechanical defects as excuse.

1001/2/10 p.m. C-in-C S.A. ordered Cdre. S.A.D. to concentrate EXETER, AJAX and the two destroyers in the Rio de Janeiro area. The Commodore, however, felt justified in departing from these orders and kept HAVOC in the Plate, until a report from Bahia confirmed that the CLEMENT had been sunk by ADMIRAL SCHEER. By 1300/4/10 all four ships were concentrated.

War Diary.

1.10.1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

S/M's, Zone D. — Submarines operating in Zone D are normally to keep less than 10 miles from coast. (R.A. (S), 1011/1).

War Diary. 1.10.39.
Sunday.

(6)

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HOOD, REPULSE and 11th and 16th Divisions left Scapa for Port A after dark. RENOWN, ROYAL OAK at Scapa.

Humber Force At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkney Is. and Faroe Is. DUNEDIN and DIOMEDE on patrol.
About this date the following A.M.Cs. were allotted to the Patrol; in addition to the existing cruisers:- ASTURIAS, CALIFORNIA, MONTCLARE, SALOPIAN, ASCANIA, SCOTSTOUN, JERVIS BAY, AURANIA, ALAUNIA. Full quota of Northern Patrol to be 25 ships.

18th Destroyer Flotilla. Organisation: 35th Division (5 destroyers) under Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches.
36th Division (4 destroyers) under Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.

JAN VAN GELDER Dutch Naval minesweeper, reported blown up on mine near Terschelling early a.m. 1/10.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ELSA ESSBERGER Believed to be intending to sail from Nagasaki (S.O.(I) Singapore).

STASSFURT Secret sailing contemplated from Tjilitjap, Java, but considered unlikely in view of mined channel and difficult pilotage (S.O.(I) Singapore).

ANNELISE ESSBERGER. Tanker. Ready to leave Nagasaki at first opportunity. Took in more oil fuel 29.9.

ELBE Believed to be intending to sail (S.O.(I) Singapore).

LINDENFELS, MONI RICKMERS, SOPHIE RICKMERS, WASGENWALD, WERDENFELS — All keeping steam and fully manned at Sabang but considered most improbable they could act as A.M.Cs. (S.O.(I) Singapore 1330/1).

America and West Indies.

Report from Caracas, Dutch W.I., that German merchant ships, 7 at Curacao and 4 at Aruba are preparing to leave. Suggested they may make for other neutral ports, e.g. Canaries, Spain, Dominica, Honduras, Brazil or Cuba, but probably not Venezuela.

North Atlantic.

Consul, Madeira, reports negotiations for transfer to Italian flag of 4 German merchant ships, including 2 tankers in Canaries, have broken down. (I.C.0221/39).

War Diary

2. 10. 3[illegible]
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

BARRWHIN **escaped** ✓ 0014 (5,000 tons) missed by torpedo 20 miles South of Needles, in convoy, 50° 17' N. 1° 30' W.

BALTIC **sunk** ✓ SS. BALTIC (Finnish 451 tons) mined off Falsterbo. Crew saved.

ACHERON **escaped** 0300 ACHERON unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo 15 miles Ushant 296°.

S/m's reported.

It now seems clear that s/m's. outward bound to the Atlantic are passing through Fair Island Channel and there are indications that those intending to return via the Skaw and Kattigat or via Horns Reef pass N. of Muckle Flugga and down the Norwegian coast, probably first making Utvoer Light (61° 3' N. 4° 31' E.) as they did in the last war (IC.0221/39)

0245 40 miles E. of Outer Dowsing Trawler BELLONA sighted s/m (? U-boat) cruised round then proceeded in a westerly direction.

0000 Off Peterhead, by civilian from shore. Considered authentic. (IC.0221/39)

1843 55° 45' N. 5° 46' E. position doubtful.

0157 By SEAHORSE 50° 31' N. 2° 22' W. off Firth of Tay. (IC.0221/39)

1230 2 s/m's. reported passed the Belts northbound.

0450 57° N. 8° 0' E. Reliable source. (IC. 0221/39).

2003 57° N. 5° E. Position doubtful.

0000/0130 57° N. 5° E. Finnish SS. AIRISTO stopped searched and asked for bread.

North Atlantic 1200 38° 30' N. 12° 35' W. 2 large s/m's. on surface. Lisbon forwardsas "reliable".

2030 Pilot cutter reported s/m acting suspiciously off No.1 buoy, R. Tay. (see 1820 below).

0900 One s/m, 500 tons, reported off Christiansand.

S/m's attacked.

1725 KEITH and MONTROSE 50° 17' N. 1° 30' W. 1st attack heavy oil. 2nd attack large air bubbles, no appreciable oil.

1820 JERVIS, JAGUAR each attacked contacts off Bell Rock, River Tay. No visible results.

2230 French patrol boat was attacked by torpedo from s/m 49° 51' N. 0° 17' W. (30 miles N. Havre) and replied with d/c's. No known result.

War Diary. FOREIGN STATIONS. 2.10.1939, Monday.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Sinking of CLEMENT. Information from survivors states that CLEMENT was sunk by pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER. (C.N.S.,0426/2). CLEMENT was machine-gunned by seaplanes and Chief Officer slightly wounded. Later sunk by secondary armament, Captain and Chief Engineer taken prisoner.(S.O.(I),Freetown, 1155/2).

Force from Home Fleet. RENOWN and one carrier, preferably ARK ROYAL on account of her larger endurance, required to proceed South Atlantic. Remarks requested. (C.N.S. to C.in C., H.F., 0602/2). ARK ROYAL and RENOWN to be known as Force K., utmost secrecy as to their movements to be maintained (D.O.D.(H), 1525/3).

Under consideration to employ battleships for Atlantic convoy and to send HERMES to America and West Indies Station . (D.O.D.(H), 1912/2).

"Killing Units". Necessary to provide as many "killing units" as possible, each consisting of either one battle cruiser or two 8-in. gun cruisers with an aircraft carrier so far as resources will allow. Following now taking place:- RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to Pernambuco area after fuelling at Freetown. Two 8-in. gun cruisers from Mediterranean to Cape of Good Hope via Red Sea. Request consideration to sending one French battle-cruiser and BEARN to Dakar and second French battle-cruiser with British carrier HERMES to Martinique area, thus raising number of fully-constituted Allied "killing units" to four. (D.O.D.(HF), 1815/2).

French Co-operation.

HERMES and ARK ROYAL aircraft complement (C.N.S., 1550/2).

2. 10. 39.
Monday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

Re. disposition of cruisers, see HOME COMMANDS.

South Atlantic

Sailings suspended — Sailings of merchant vessels suspended for four days from Rio de Janeiro and Santos (on account of raider).

American safety zone — Three hundred mile safety zone created (? date) in which belligerents are prohibited.

NEPTUNE, CUMBERLAND, HYPERION, HUNTER operating in South Atlantic near Ascension, have not reported locating German ships and are due to arrive at Freetown 2/10 (See 28/9).

S/m. — Japanese trawler PRESIDENT EROCA under Argentine flag was stopped by s/m and gave s/m fish, about 33°S. 53° W. (I.C.0228/39).

China

Gun boats — First two to be withdrawn sailed for Hong Kong. The Chinese Govt. were informed that 5 of our Yangtze gun boats are being withdrawn and will be sent back after the war. The French have also decided to withdraw the crews of their gun boats in Chinese waters, but have not yet done so.

LINDENFELS)
WERDENFELS) — Reported by Captain on Staff TERROR these vessels at Sabang discharged their Lascar crews 30/9.

REGENSBURG)
ELBE)
ODENWALD)
SPREEWALD) — At Yokohama, Consul reports discharging cargo into ELBE. Both ships and ODENWALD and SPREEWALD taking in provisions. This may be indication of early intention to sail.

North Atlantic

ANTARKTIS — Tanker. Consul, Vigo, reports she has risen 2½ ft. at bow since 29/9, sunk 1 ft. at stern, risen about 1 ft. amidships, though there has been no discharge by daylight.

America & West Indies.

Reported from Kingston, Jamaica, that U.S.A. is basing a destroyer patrol on Port-au-Prince, Haiti, presumably as part of the neutrality enforcement precautions which are already in force along the coast of Cuba.

East Indies

Reported from Aden that a gun, probably 6 inch, has been mounted at Sheikh Said, opposite Perim, and that a second concrete emplacement has been built there, presumably by the King of the Yemen.

War Diary. 2. 10. 1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DAUNTLESS, S.L.3. — Your 1658/27 to F.O.C.N.A. DAUNTLESS is to remain in company with Convoy S.L.3 until about latitude of Gibraltar. Then to part company and proceed with moderate despatch to join China Station. (D.O.D.(F), 1954/2), to C. in C., S.A.)

Force K. — ARK ROYAL and RENOWN, escorted by TARTAR, BEDOUIN, ASHANTI and FORESIGHT sailed for Freetown. (C. in C H.F., 1050/2).

Mediterranean.

NORFOLK, SUFFOLK. — My 0141/2. When NORFOLK has completed changing gun she is to rendezvous with SUFFOLK and proceed westabout to Mediterranean. SUFFOLK to work up as ordered by C. in C., Med. (D.O.D.(H), to C. in C.(s, Home Fleet and Rosyth).

War Diary

2. 10. 39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, REPULSE with 11th and 12th Divisions arrived at Port A. 0700.
FURIOUS and 4 destroyers left Rosyth for Port A.
NORFOLK changing a gun at Rosyth, then to proceed with SUFFOLK to Mediterranean.
ROYAL OAK at Scapa.
Remainder at Port A.

Detached Squadron

Re-disposition of Naval forces consequent on report of raider (ADMIRAL SCHEER) off N.E. coast of South America. Cruisers on foreign stations being concentrated in strong groups in the more important areas, the older 6 inch cruisers relieving 8 inch cruisers so as to free the latter for this purpose.
RENOWN, ARK ROYAL proceeding South.
EFFINGHAM, ENTERPRISE, EMERALD on passage to Devonport to make good minor defects and prepare for tropical service.

Humber Force

SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol

6 cruisers on patrol, 4 being between Faroes and Iceland. COLOMBO, CERES, CARADOC arrived to take places of EFFINGHAM, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE on this patrol.

Aircraft Reconnaissances

In addition to normal patrols over the North Sea an anti-s/m patrol is being carried out between Montrose and Fifeness.

Minefield.

Third lay of Folkestone - Gris Nez minefield completed.

Enemy Intelligence.

GENERAL ARTIGAS

Large passenger ship, believed to be this ship, arrived Narvik 1600/2. Last reported in S. American waters. Left Buenos Aires 1/9.

ARION

Left Oslo 2/10.

BISCAYA

Tanker. Reported arrived Tenerife 1/10 from Santa Conzde le Palma.

BORKUM

Reported left Buenos Aires 1/10 (arrived Monte Video 2/9).
Reports indicate that German destroyers and s/m's. are continuing to attack neutral shipping in Skagerrak and vicinity.

(6)

War Diary.

3. 10. 1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

Attacks on Enemy S/M's.

M. 011465/39, dated 3. 10. 1939. Subject, Depth Charge Attacks on Enemy Submarines, Reports re.
Refers to attacks between 11th and 20th September by FAULKNOR, FIREDRAKE, and SOMALI.

War Diary. 3.10.39. Tuesday. ⊙

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

DIAMANTIS sunk.	1700 Greek S.S. DIAMANTIS (4990 tons) sunk by submarine 49° 22' N. 6° 46' W. Submarine landed survivors (see 4/10). From Pepel Sierra Leone, to Barrow in Furness with 7700 tons of ore. Torpedoed by German s/m No. 350, s/m. waited until ship was abandoned. (M 01677 8/39 List of Greek vessels sunk by German action)
S/ms reported.	30 miles E. of Cape Wrath. Search by aircraft. No result.
1502	5 miles off Lands End by S.S. PHILIPH.
1600	59° 30' N. 5° E, submarine about 800 tons. Possibly No. 26.

3.10.39
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

(M.016672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39.

C-in-C S.A. 1835/3/10 directed that on CUMBERLAND (left Freetown, Sierra Leone 3/10) rejoining Cdre. S.A.D., AJAX and ACHILLES and the 2 destroyers were to be used for trade protection in the local areas, while EXETER and CUMBERLAND, concentrated as a hunting unit, carried out an initial sweep as far north as possible consistent with their endurance.
Adty. 2332/3 ordered that in order to restrict the activities of German raiders in South Atlantic great care must be taken not to accept for his temporary benefit such departures from strict neutrality laws as might prove to be to his disadvantage should the enemy obtain reciprocal concessions. In view of necessity of making more use of Falkland Is. for fuelling and provisioning Cdre. S.A.D. requested that a reserve stock of Naval Victualling and Canteen stores should be sent to Port Stanley for his use. He emphazised the desirability of keeping large valuable ships out of Pernambuco area where our trade was relatively small and where, owing to fuelling restrictions it was proving impossible to maintain a patrol in that area. (Cdre. S.A.D 1852/7) He therefore recommended that cargoes for U.K. should be sent to Rio de Janeiro in local steamers for subsequent shipment Home.

War Diary

3.10.39.
Tuesday.

(1)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE left Suez a.m.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND and DESPATCH left Freetown p.m.

America and West Indies.

S/ms reported. 0030 British S.S. ARMINDA reports unknown s/m 15 miles N.W. of Puerto Colombia (11° 0' N. 75° 2' W.)

RHAKOTIS
HERMONTHIS
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN

Reported due to sail from Callao night 3/10 or 4/10 and due to be met by 3 submarines and subsequently DEUTSCHLAND or GRAF SPEE which will arm them. The last report received of whereabouts of DEUTSCHLAND was 22/9 and of SPEE 24/9 when both were reported in the Wilhelmshaven area.

North Atlantic.

CHEMNITZ ✓ which was captured by French submarine was brought into Casablanca by French Squadron 3/10.

War Diary. 3.10.39. Tuesday. (6)

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.	At Port A. FURIOUS arrived at Port A.
Humber Force	SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH at Rosyth.
Northern Patrol.	6 cruisers on patrol.
Detached squadron	EFFINGHAM, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE arrived at Devonport to make good defects before proceeding South.
Air Reconnaissances.	Normal patrols over North Sea. Anti-submarine patrol between Dyce and Girdleness.
Explosion.	At 2100 explosion near eastern end of detached mole at Dover. No casualties. Probably a mine driven ashore.

Enemy Intelligence.

BOLTENHAGEN	Press report that Dutch sailors recently discharged from this ship at Murmansk state there are already 42 German ships refuging there. BOLTENHAGEN reported from Tromso passing south 1100/3.
HAMM) LUBECK)	Reported left Reykjavik about 2300/2.
GENERAL ARTIGAS	11,250 tons, reached Narvik 3/10. (Arrived Trondjhem 6/10, left dawn 7/10).

WEATHER.

Most unfavourable for attacks on submarines.

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

GLENFARG **sunk**

SS. GLENFARG (876 tons) torpedoed 58° 52' N. 1° 54' W. (approx.) 25 miles E. of Orkneys (60 miles S.S.W. Sumburgh Hd., Shetlands). FIREDRAKE rescued 6 survivors, 1 dead.

1745-1810. Unknown ship heard by amateur wireless operator sending S.O.S. "sinking off Malin Head" (? BELLGRAVIAN ex-Patras 26/9 for Liverpool).

S/m's. reported

0300 French trawler reported U-boat 8 miles N.E. Isle de Bas (55 miles E. of Ushant) proceeding Westward (I.C.0226/39).

1112 60° 18' N. 0° 50' W. s/m reported on surface, then dived, proceeding South. Not thought reliable by F.O.C.O.S.

1225 57° 17' N. 5° 17' E. by a/c.

1800 S/m landed 28 of crew of Greek SS. [illegible]AMANTIS (sunk 3/10) at Ballymore, Dingle Bay, Ireland.

1100 Portuguese authorities report 2 s/m's. N.W. of Figo I. (Cape Verde Is.).

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

China

HOEGH TRANSPORTER **sunk**		Norwegian (4914 tons) was sunk by mine on declared British minefield at entrance to Singapore, through disregard of British warning Crew saved.

North Atlantic

S/m's.	1100	Portuguese authorities report two s/m's. N.W. of Fogo Island, Cape Verde Is. (IC.0226/39).
OSTMARK		German seaplace NORDWIND arrived Las Palmas from Gando p.m. 4/10 and was hoisted aboard OSTMARK which subsequently moved out into the roads.
SAMOS		Now reported laid up at Venice.
MADRID		Las Palmas reports considerable engineering activities aboard this ship and in German workshops ashore; both funnels being painted black with letters "DR" in white.
ASUNNCION		At Las Palmas, black funnel having letters "DR" painted on in white. Anticipated that these two above ships may sail shortly.

America & West Indies

Convoy KJ3	KJ3 left Jamaica. Important convoy with 19 oilers and is to be escorted the whole way home. (Arrived off South Ireland 25/10)

War Diary. 4.10.1939,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Destroyers. HARDY and Third Division to sail and rendezvous with Force K in position 015 deg. North, 028 deg. West at 1600, 9th October, and escort Force K to Freetown. D.O.D.(F), 1619/4).

ATHLONE CASTLE. To sail from Gibraltar for Freetown. (D.O.D.(F), 1619/4).

Force K. Proceeding down meridian 020° West at ab out 18 knots and should arrive Freetown 11/10, subject to information of enemy submarines. (C.in.C., H.F., 2046/4).

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet — At Port A.

Northern Patrol — Six cruisers on patrol.

Air Reconnaissances — Normal patrols.

Enemy Air Activity — At least 2 German a/c's. were reported at Firth of Forth 0830 - 0900, and one a/c at 30,000 ft. approximately 60 miles E. of Scapa (IC.0225/39)
One a/c 1250 flying near Leuchars at 1,000 ft.
3 a/c's were located in the Bight in the early afternoon.
A flying boat sighted by a/c in approx. 58° 10' N. 3° 50' E. was shadowed from 1050-1150 on a N.W. course. It was eventually lost to sight steering N.
1100 large German flying boat reported to have been observed by two trawlers 13-14 miles E.
Tyne flying very low.

Convoys — FN.16 cancelled on account of weather.

Explosion — 0050 explosion, probably from mine driven ashore in Langdon Bay near root of eastern breakwater. No casualties.

Enemy Intelligence

WALTER RAU — Whale factory ship is reported laid up in river outside Hamburg disguised.

WAR DIARY

5.10.39
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked

MARWARRI beached. (8066 tons) was mined or torpedoed (Master believes the former) near Scarweather Lt.V. off Swansea. Beached inside Mumbles. Area declared dangerous.

Submarines reported

2050 — 16.5 miles 94° Beachy Head by MARY SLESSOR. Submarine on surface (I.C.0226/39).

1830 — Reported by destroyer 50°55'N. 1°20'E. Aircraft searched with no result.

1740 — FRANKLIN sighted periscope 310° 9 miles from Calais High Light. BRAZEN investigated (I.C.0226/39).

1715 — ST.EUNAN reported submarine clearly seen off Arklow, E.Coast Eire (I.C.0227/39).

1000 — Camouflaged submarine about 340 tons 69°N. 17'E. (I.C.0226/39).

1700 — One large submarine ?N.Cape (I.C.0226/39).

North Atlantic.

Reports of two large submarines off Lisboh.

1300 — Portuguese report submarine sighted from two points 5 miles West Nazare (Portugal) 39°36'N. 9°4'W. (I.C.0227/39).

Submarines attacked.

1600 — Aircraft attacked submarine 51°33'N. 4°9'W. (3 miles S. of Oxwich Head.) (I.C.0226/39).

War Diary

5.10.39.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

(MO16672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L.of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39)

Adty. 1409/5 laid down policy for dealing with ocean raiders. EXETER and CUMBERLAND became Force G. operating in the Rio de Janeiro - Plate focal areas.

Owing to the small volume of shipping leaving Rio de Janeiro Cdre. S.A.D. suggested to Consular shipping advisers there and at Santos that the local convoy systems from these ports should be suspended and that Allied ships should in future be routed independently.

Note. CUMBERLAND joined Cdre. S.A.D. 0500/9/10

War Diary. 5.10.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

America and West Indies.

Forces "M" and "N". HERMES to sail A.M. 7th Oct. for Brest to come under orders of French R.A. nominated to fly his flag in STRASBOURG. Anticipated group will sail P.M. 7th Oct. for Dakar, to be joined by French cruisers ALGERIE AND DUPLEIX and relief destroyer escort westward of Gibraltar. After fuelling Dakar to proceed West Indies. (D.O.D.(F),2018/5).

Cruisers DUGUAY TROUIN and PRIMAUGUET return to France after arrival at Dakar of ALGERIE and DUPLEIX. (D.O.D.(F), 2018/5).

Drafts. Draft sailing in ATHLONE CASTLE, and remainder of St. Helena garrison in ARUNDEL CASTLE. (C. in C., S.A., 0925/5).

Canadian Destroyers. Admiralty 1035 (? 1418/3), Reply, Yes. Request early information of probable date of arrival of 13th Destroyer Flotilla in order that OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE may dock and carry out refit. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1648/5). Your 1648/5. Co-operation much appreciated. Estimated that CARADOC will arrive Esquimalt about mid-November. Presence of destroyers urgently required in Caribbean. (D.O.D. (F), 1241/6).

CARADOC

South Atlantic.

French Forces. French intention to move STRASBOURG, ALGERIE and DUPLEIX to Dakar. Two more submarines being sent to Martinique area. Reconnaissance in Pernambuco and Dakar area probably being reinforced by long-distance civil aircraft. (N.L.O., Marceau, 0920/5).

5.10.39.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/m. bases. — S/m. bases are suspected in Canary Is.

OSTMARK. — German seaplane NORDWIND arrived Las Palmas from Gando p.m. 4/10 and was hoisted aboard OSTMARK which subsequently moved out into the roads. Reported one seaplane was catapulted a.m./5/10. Seaplane NORDWIND was catapulted off 1615 5/10, flew to Gando and disappeared in N.E. direction. Seaplane NORDMEER arrived from Gando 1640 and was catapulted off at 1940, heading North. (I.C.O.-227/39)

Mediterranean.

RAMILLIES. — RAMILLIES left Gibraltar 1215 for Halifax.

America and West Indies.

Reuter's Santiago office reported periscope of German s/m seen by Chilean Naval Officer in Valparaiso harbour.

STONEGATE sunk. — DEUTSCHLAND sank the S.S. STONEGATE (5044 tons) 500 miles East of Bermuda.

U.S.A. patrol. — Reported that U.S.A. is to institute a regular patrol of the Pacific coast by some 40 cruisers and destroyers.

War Diary.

5. 10. 1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Destruction of German Raiders.

Policy and Dispositions. Admiralty policy for dealing with German raiders on trade routes. Hunting groups to be formed as follows:-

F.	BERWICK and YORK.	N. America and W. Indies.
G.	CUMBERLAND and EXETER.	E. Coast of S. America.
H.	SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE.	Cape of Good Hope area.
I.	CORNWALL, DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE.	Ceylon area.
K.	RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and one 6" gun cruiser.	Pernambuco-Freetown area.
L.	DUNKERQUE, 3-6" gun cruisers and BEARN.	Brest.
M.	2 - 8" gun cruisers.	Dakar.
N.	STRASBOURG, HERMES.	To West Indies.

(D.C.N.S., 1409/5).

NEPTUNE, HARDY. NEPTUNE acting as ocean escort for Convoy S L 4. Request whether HARDY and 3rd Division are to operate with Force K. (C.in C.,S.A.,1835/6) Reply, D.O.D. (H), 1656/7.

French "Force de Raid". D.O.D. (H), 1719/5.

Force "M", "N" and "Y". Force M to be known as 1st Division of Cruisers. Force N in future to be known as Force Y. When in company these two forces to be known as Force X (D.O.D. (F),2248/7).

Forces G, H, K. General operational control groups G, H, K will be under C. in C., South Atlantic, in order to co-ordinate their movements. (C. in C., S.A., 1001/9).

Atlantic Convoys.

Escorts. RESOLUTION, REVENGE, EMERALD and ENTERPRISE to be sailed in company for Halifax, each to carry bullion embarked at Portland and Devonport. Ships will subsequently be employed singly on escort duties with HX convoys and reinforced later by EFFINGHAM. (D.O.D. (F), 1822/5).

French Movements. To Dakar, Oran, and submarines to Martinique. (N.L.O., Marceau, 0920/5)

X

5.10.39.
Thursday.

(6)

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. C.in C. Home Fleet with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, REPULSE and FURIOUS left Port A. at 1900 and returned to Scapa.

Humber Force. At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. Six cruisers on patrol.

Detached Forces. See Adty. 1409/5.

Operations. ✓ SEAWOLF on patrol in Zone C 2 fired two torpedoes at cruiser of NUREMBERG class without result, as enemy altered course 140° during attack.

Aircraft Reconnaissances.
(a) Normal patrols.
(b) Special patrol from Shetlands to 62° N. (100 miles N. of Shetlands)
(c) Special reconnaissance of entrance to Skagerrak to confirm reports of a continuous German patrol and to attack if circumstances prove favourable.

Contraband Control. 91 ships (neutral) 439,490 tons under British Contraband Control in U.K. ports 5/10.

2 ships (British) 11,545 tons do.

Swedish Patrol. The Swedish west coast fleet (1 battleship, 2 destroyers, 2 S/ms. and a number of small ships) as well as 100 merchant vessels, has begun to patrol Swedish territorial waters.

Enemy Intelligence.

Skagerrak Patrol. The Germans are reported to have a patrol of destroyers, S/ms. and seaplanes across the Skagerrak, operating contraband control service.

On 22/11 information was received from Captain of S.S.DANMARK, (Danish) that he was boarded 1200/5 11 miles North of Hirshals by 2 German destroyers. Entire ship's company photographed and numerous photographs of ship taken. Clearance papers including green clearance were seized. Object was probably duplication of papers and imitation of ship (V.A.N.P. 1536/22)

WEATHER.

Has been deteriorating on all coasts of British Isles.

FOREIGN STATIONS ...

War Diary

6. 10. 39.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

LOCH GOIL

1620 LOCH GOIL (9500 tons) mined 5 miles off Scarweather Lightship (Swansea). Beached inside Mumbles, Area had been declared dangerous after mining of SS. MARWARRI, 5/10. LOCH GOIL was dry docked at Swansea.

S/m's reported

1014 By D/F off Dingle Bay. No result. Unreliable fix (IC.0226/39).

2300 S/m sighted 5 miles S.W. Lagos, Portugal, course West, 8 knots (IC.0228/39).

S/m's. attacked

8 miles South of Beachy Head. No result.

War Diary.

6.10.1939,
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Force K. Proposing Force K. arrive entrance Freetown swept channel at 0530 zone + 1 Thursday 12th October, and that HARDY and 6th Sub-Division rendezvous with Force in 11.50 N., 21.00 W., at 0530 zone + 1 Wednesday 11th October. (C. in C., S.A., 0940/6). Approved (D.C., 2230/6).

GENERAL.

Recognition Signals. Admiralty 2012/5/9. Recognition system between surface and air forces employed by Germans. Corroboration or refutation of any details of new information to be reported. (D.S.D., 1301/6).

War Diary

6. 10. 39.
Friday. (6)

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

Mediterranean

RAMILLIES was ordered to return to Gibraltar at 2233.

East Indies

SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE left Aden 0930/6.

South Atlantic

German s/m reported anchored off Maribu (N.E. coast of Brazil) at dusk and tried unsuccessfully to obtain provisions.

America & West Indies

S/m's. reported 6 s/m's. reported working off South American coast and in Caribbean Sea and U26. off Venezuela (IC.0228/39).
S/m sighted off North coast of St. Thomas, Virgin Is. In full view 15 minutes submerged on approach of destroyer BORIE (IC.0228/39).

War Diary. 6.10.1939,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipment of Bullion. Admiralty 1822/5. Consignment of gold bars to Devonport Dockyard for shipment in EMERALD, ENTERPRISE and CARADOC. (M., 1539/6). Your 1539/6, this has been done. (C. in C.,W.A., 1530/7).

Caradoc CARADOC to be sailed for Halifax and thence Esquimalt via Panama, to come under orders of R.C.N. authorities. OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE placed under C. in C., A. & W.I., to operate in Caribbean, see 1241/6 C.N.S. to C.N.S., Ottawa and C. in C., A.W.I. (D.O.D. (F), 1242/6).

War Diary

6. 10. 39
Friday.

(6)

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — At Scapa, less ROYAL SOVEREIGN (see 7/10)
SHEFFIELD arrived at Invergordon 0045.
H.M. the King visited the Home Fleet at Scapa 6/10 and 7/10.

Humber Force — At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol — Six cruisers on patrol. There are now 7 A.M.C.'s at Scapa.

Air Reconnaissance — Most of the air patrols and the special air reconnaissance flight to Skagerrak were cancelled owing to weather. (Was to have arrived 1030. Bomber squadrons standing by to attack suitable targets if located.

Amsterdam open — The port of Amsterdam was re-opened to British shipping (D.T.D. 2306/6).

WEATHER

Wind reached gale force 0700. Gale then subsided on all coasts.

Enemy Intelligence.

Flying boats — Fishing trawlers from Grimsby report that German flying boats are frequently seen on patrol in area bounded as follows:-

53° 50' N.	53° 0' N.	53° 50' N.	53°0' N.
1° 20' E.	2° 0' E.	2° 20' E.	2°40'E.

They were last seen on 5/10 and 6/10. There are never more than 2 a/c's. together. In most cases they fly very low over the fishing fleet, about 200-500 ft. No trawlers have been molested so far.

Mines seen — In the same area approx. 25 floating horned mines were found, the majority painted red. (I.C.0228/39)

U-boat supplies — It is believed that U-boats are getting supplies from about a dozen German trawlers which have passed up into Northern waters by making careful use of neutral territorial waters.

A cruiser of the NURNBERG class was sighted 30 miles West of the Skaw.

"Flakschiffe" — Believed that small craft of trawler type, converted river steamers and even lighters, some perhaps with A.A. armament, are used on a/c observation duties. It is not known whether they maintain fixed positions or are under way, the former is more likely. It appears they may be encountered anywhere in the Heligoland Bight East of 6° E. or South of 55° N. Most reports of these vessels have emanated from positions on a line Borkum Riff Lt. V. to 54° 35' N., 6° 10' E. and a line Borkum Riff Lt. V. to 54° N. 8° E.

War Diary

7.10.39
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN
& Mining

Ships attacked

Recent absence of attacks by s/m's on merchant shipping in the Channel and Irish Sea, and of one creditably reported off Cork Lt. V. (near Harwich) may mask a phase of minelaying (I.C. 0228/39)

BINNENDIJK

Dutch S.S. BINNENDIJK (6873 tons) was ?mined off Shambles. Sank 0200/8. The area was subsequently declared dangerous.

s/m's reported

0100 By barge OCEANIC (Information supplied by fishermen) ½ mile N.E. of Cork Lt. V. (I.C. 0228/39) Cancelled, as unlikely (I.C. 0229/39)

1945 By NEWCASTLE 60° 0'N 6° 22'W

1920 Believed s/m 8 miles S.E. of Portland

1850 s/m reported off Brighton by WREN, 50° 36'N 0° 14'W. Subsequent hunt abandoned (I.C. 0239/39)

s/m's attacked

0554 French patrol vessel BELFORT gunned s/m 6 miles 100° from C. Barfleur, Cherbourg. (I.C. 0227/39)

South Atlantic

0900 s/m sighted, course N.W., near Fogo, C. Verde Is. Reported by Portuguese authorities. Stated to be reliable (I.C. 0228/39)

1100 Portuguese report s/m off San Nicholas Is., C. Verde, course S.W. (IC 0239/39)

War Diary.

⊙ 7.10.39
Saturday.

(2) That the ADMIRAL SCHEER was near St. Helena 4/10.

?MONTE PASCOAL

(3) An armed merchant vessel, probably the MONTE PASCOAL, is believed to be operating off the mouth of the Amazon.

Several German "warcraft" were reported off Puerta Descado at the E. end of the Magellan Straits and Bahia Nuevo (47° 30'S 66°W) where the Germans had a secret Naval base in the last war.

War Diary.

7.10.39
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War Diary.

7.10.39
Saturday.
(6)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Aden defences — C-in-C E.I. recommended that steps be taken to strengthen and make effective the seaward defences of Aden.

American & West Indies

s/m's reported — There have been reports and rumours for some time past of the presence of German s/m's on the West coast of South America.

a/c sighted — French tanker sighted an aircraft 20° 8'N 51° 30'W and on 9/10 in 24° 30'N 45° 0'W, presumably belonging to a raider.

Suspicious vessel — A suspicious vessel, not however, apparently mounting guns, is reported to have shadowed the British S.S. HUSVIK from 1000/4 to 1100/5 in the Caribbean Sea (I.C. 0228/39)

C-in-C S.A. informed Cdre, Cmdg 8th Division A.W.I. and CUMBERLAND that 2 converted German merchant ships of about 7000 tons were due to rendezvous 140 miles E. of Trinidad about 8/10.

Routing of ships — Decided to discontinue the convoys from Kingston Jamaica, and now all ships in West Atlantic are routed independently at Halifax taking advantage of U.S.A. waters as far as possible. This enables convoys to be sailed from Halifax and arrive in the Western Approaches every 4 days and does not disturb the 8 day circle of arrival.

U.S.A. patrol — The U.S.A. have established an air and coast guard patrol off Florida and have stopped and inspected a British ship.

South Atlantic

Raider — Norwegian ship CATE B reports 28/9 200 miles E of Bahia an armed raider thought to resemble the SCHWABENLAND, painted all black, mounting 2 guns forward and 2 guns aft, in twin mountings (I.C. 0228/39)

BISCAYA — From Teneriffe arrived off Las Palmas 0200/7 and sailed in an unknown direction 0300/7 after being visited by a Woermann Line tug (German) with Spanish Naval Officer on board. Believed to be proceeding to Aruba.

Unconfirmed reports from Barbados state:-
(I.C. 0227/39)

ADMIRAL SCHEER — (1) A warship resembling the ADMIRAL SCHEER has been reported 60 miles E. of Natal (Brazil) 0400/30 by an American Steamer.

War Diary.

7.10.39.
Saturday

S E C R E T

6

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — At Scapa less ROYAL SOVEREIGN refitting at Devonport. H.M. the King visited the Home Fleet at Scapa 6/10 and 7/10.

Humber Force — At Rosyth

Detached Squadron — REVENGE, RESOLUTION, ENTERPRISE, EMERALD, and CARADOC left Portland and Plymouth a.m. for Halifax with bullion.

Northern Patrol — 6 cruisers on patrol.

Force N. — HERMES sailed 0930 to join Force N.

Air Reconnaissance — Extended air reconnaissance towards Iceland was carried out in an endeavour to sight 3 enemy destroyers or cruisers reported 90 miles N.N.E. of Shetlands.

Swedish Channel — Sweden's West Coast Fleet, which has been mobilised to patrol territorial waters is to be augmented by 100 armed cargo steamers. It is planned to buoy the whole territorial channel.

German air activity — At 1215 SELKIRK and NIGER whilst sweeping for mines off Swarte Bank (45 miles E.N.E. of Cromer) were attacked by enemy flying boats with bombs and machine guns in 52° 26'N 2° 19'E There were no casualties and the ships were only very slightly damaged by machine gun fire. (I.C. 0228/39)

Amsterdam — Amsterdam was re-opened to British shipping.

Enemy Intelligence

GENERAL ARIIGAS — 11,250 tons Hamburg-S. America Line, which reached Narvik 3/10, rumoured 32 days out of Buenos Aires, arrived Trondjhem 6/10 and left at dawn 7/10.

CLARE HUGO STINNES — Arrived Trondjhem 6/10 having discharged her cargo (after being aground) at Buvik.

SARDINIEN — Left Reykjavik 6/10.

WIEGAND — Left Malm, Trondjhem Fjord, laden with ore, south bound 2200/6/10.

AFRIKA
HELGA
FERDINAND — Both laden arrived Bergen 7/10. AFRIKA sailed about 1600/7/10.

Iron ore trade — Germans are now fighting shy of the West Coast route from Narvik, but three German ships left Oxelsund (South of Stockholm) on 6/10 and 7/10 for Holtman with 14,000 tons of iron ore. This ore is probably that from the central Swedish mines and is of inferior quality to the northern product.

8.10.39
⊙ Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

s/m's attacked

VISTULA — VISTULA (Swedish 1018 tons) was sunk by s/m 45 miles Muckle Flugga. Crew saved.

s/m's reported

0748 s/m seen by a/c 59° 22'N 1° 40'W south of Fair Island Channel. Dived a/c lost touch (I.C. 0228/39).
do. 60 miles 075° from May Island.
s/m reported East of Shetland.

0730 s/m sighted by a/c 9 miles N 31° E from Coquet Is., 55° 26'N 1° 6'W (I.C. 0228/39)
(I.C. 0229/39 says sighted by S/T ALSEY)

0900 Possible periscope sighted 6 miles 180° from St. Catherines. Dutch trawler near. SALADIN investigated (I.C. 0229/39)

1300 C-in-C Nore states fairly reliable report of s/m partly submerged 3 miles S by W from Dungeness.

0801 Enemy s/m reported 56° 33'N 0° 11'W. One a/c sent to locate and attack (IC 0229/39)

?time Norwegian S.S. HILDA was stopped by German s/m 40 miles W.N.W. Muckle Flugga; allowed to proceed (I.C. 0236/39)

0700 Master of GORSETHORNE reported s/m at Rathlin O'Beirne, Donegal Bay (IC 0231/39)

?time Norwegian coasting steamer reported to have been boarded and examined in Vestejord about 67° 50'N 14°E. Later unconfirmed. (I.C. 0231/39)

War Diary.

8. 10. 1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

HYPERION, Malaya Force.

Request HYPERION be allocated to China Force or Malayan Force. Intended that Malaya Force shall include all ships at present under operation orders of Commodore, Malaya. This very desirable in order to conceal number of units operating. (C. in C., China, 1309/8).
Your 1309/8. It is intention to confine the further allocation of letters to units forming hunting groups. There would, however, be no objection should you desire to allocate other distinctive addresses to the China and Malaya Forces, using as far as possible addresses already allowed for in signal publications. (D.O.D. (F), 1356/9).

War Diary.

8.10.39
Sunday.

0

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

(M.016672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L. of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39.)

At 1600/7/10 Cdre. S.A.D. received a message from the Consular Shipping Adviser, Rio de Janeiro, that he desired to sail a 13 knot convoy at 0430/8/10, and owing to the publicity which this had received locally he asked if escort could be arranged. Cdre. S.A.D. accordingly took his whole force back towards Rio de Janeiro. The convoy was dispersed at 1800/8, and EXETER proceeded to rendezvous with CUMBERLAND 0500/9, whilst remaining within supporting distance of the convoy. AJAX was detached at 2200/8 to the northward.

8.10.39
⊙ Sunday.

Enemy Intelligence

Germans have concentrated further forces of small s/m's, T.B.'s armed trawlers and a/c's on Skagerrak. Danish export trade with U.K. paralysed as result of German operations against it. A ~~m~~ember of FLAKSCHIFFE which are small craft such as lighters or trawlers fitted with listening devices and perhaps A/A guns are stationed in the Bight for air observation duties. It is reported that trawlers have also been converted for use as aircraft receiving vessels and that these are also fitted for air observation.

WEATHER

S.E. gales expected on all coasts and in North Sea.

War Diary

8.10.39.
Sunday

S E C R E T

(6)

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

At 1245 our aircraft on patrol reported one enemy destroyer and later one battleship, 1 cruiser and 4 destroyers 26 miles S.W. of Lister Light. The a/c's shadowed them until 1547. Last reported position was at 1720, 30 miles west of Obrestad Light, steering North. C-in-C Home Fleet made the following dispositions to deal with this force:-

Force E. HOOD, REPULSE, SHEFFIELD, AURORA and 6 destroyers to 62° 30'N 4° 0'E (60 miles West of Aalesund, Norway) by 0600/9, then to sweep South westward.

Force F. NELSON, RODNEY, FURIOUS, NEWCASTLE and 6 destroyers to position close North of Muckle Flugga by 0600/9, then to sweep North Eastward. ROYAL OAK, MATABELE, STURDY patrolling West of Shetlands from 0600.

Humber Force (2 C.S.) (See M 012443/39, Humber Force, R. of P.) SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, and 5 "J" class destroyers to position Y, 60 miles 255° from Lister Light by 0600/9/10 and to sweep Northward off the Norwegian coast. (These orders were not received by V.A.12 C.S. in SOUTHAMPTON until 0230/9. In the absence of orders he was proceeding North at high speed to counter any attempt of enemy to break out into the Atlantic Vide M.Ø. 012443/39)

Air Ministry were asked to search with bombers. German W/T activity during the night indicated the presence of forces both East and West of their main minefield.

Air Reconnaissances

Special reconnaissance force proceeding to the Skagerrak encountered and shot down a Dornier flying boat 65 miles 070° from May Island (56° 36'N 0° 7'E) The crew of 5 were rescued by the Danish M.V. TEDDY, but subsequent searching a/c's and destroyers failed to locate the vessel.

Scapa A.A. defence

C-in-C asked that fighter a/c strength be increased in view of enemy air activity near Scapa and Fair Island Channel.

Casualties

TARTAR - major machinery defects. Remaining in harbour until made good.
FORTUNE and FAULKNOR suffered damage from weather. Former on way to dock at Clyde.

War Diary.

9.10.39
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's reported.

1025	54° 25' N. 5° 0' E. Position reliable. (I.C.0239/39)
0000	Green Light and outline of same craft seen by trawler, Light was very low, 7 miles E.N.E. Humber Lt. V. approx (do.)
0900	Two s/m's passed Little Belt proceeding South (do.)
2245	Unidentified unit, probably s/m, 47° 4' N. 8° 43' W. position doubtful (do.)

9.10.39
Monday.

(6)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING

INDRA

Finnish ship INDRA (1999 tons) mined and sunk between 53° 27' N. 5° 5' E. and 53° 29' N. 5° 3' E. (6 miles off Terschelling) 6 crew injured, then with 14 others landed at Ymuiden. She disregarded a British warning and entered a declared minefield.

War Diary. 9. 10. 1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Forces "I", "J". Allocation of Forces I and J to East Indies Station, and disposition of other units. (C.in C., E.I., 0901/9/10).
Desirable that some ship other than those in Forces H., I., or J. should watch Seychelles anchorages. (C.N.S., 0145/10).

Operating areas for Forces I. and J., (C. in C., E.I., 1923/14).

America and West Indies.

Canadian Destroyers. C. in C. A.W.I.'s 1955/9. Concur with principle as soon as destroyers are available. OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE now refitting in preparation sail for Kingston on relief by CARADOC. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1128/14).

War Diary. 9.10.39
Monday. (6)

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

ALTMARK ✓ Member of crew of CAP NORTE states German tanker ALTMARK capable of 25-30 knots was operating between Narvik and Heligoland supplying oil to U-boats (N.I.D. 01821/39)

Weather.

S. to S.W. gale expected on West Coast. S.E. gale warning still in force East Coast.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

TIJUCA and CURYTIBA Left Pernambuco at same time as CAP NORTE 21/9 (N.I.D. 01821/39 Interrogation of German Merchant crews.)

East Indies.

Raider. See 7/10.

North Atlantic.

OSTMARK. Protest by Spanish authorities against activities of aircraft based on OSTMARK now at Las Palmas.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet.

At sea carrying out sweep See 8/10.

Humber Force.
M.O. 12443/39
(Humber Force, M. of P.)

At 0830 2 C.S. was 80' N. W. of Lister Light, 25' from Norwegian coast, with JACKAL and JANUS in company, sweeping North at 22 knots with nothing in sight except shadowing aircraft. JAGUAR (who had been detached at 0605 to Rosyth for fuel) 80' to westward of 2 C S reported at 0840 that she was attacked by 2 enemy aircraft, which dropped 6 bombs. An attempted dive bombing attack was deflected by pom-pom fire. JAGUAR was undamaged.-

2 C.S. was attacked by enemy aircraft at intervals from 1120 to 1645. No ship was hit, but splinters cam aboard SOUTHAMPTON (C.S.2 1800/10). At 1518 JERVIS and JUPITER in position 59° 46' N. 1° 38' E. 110' S.W. of 2 C S were attacked with bombs by 4 enemy aircraft without result. At 1650 JERVIS reported that main machinery of JUPITER had broken down and she was towing JUPITER to Scap a at 10 knots. 2 C S proceeded to cover return of JERVIS with GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, JACKALL and JANUS. JERSEY and JAGUAR (short of fuel) who had returned to Rosyth were ordered to rendezvous with 2 C S 30' from Pentland Skerries but JAGUAR damaged starboard shaft and JERSEY fouled the boom and both were unable to proceed. (JERVIS and JUPITER had been despatched to search for Danish m.v. TEDDY in order to recover from her the crew of German Dornier flying boat shot down on 8/10) JAGUAR and JERSEY docked at Leith.

Casualties.

✓ESCAPADE and VIVACIOUS were in collision leaving Milford Haven. Latter sustained slight damage. ESCAPADE docked at Newport.

Northern Patrol. CAP NORTE captured

✓ H.M.S. BELFAST captured in 64° N. 8° W.(50' N.W. of Faroes) the German M.V. CAP NORTE (13015 tons) Hamburg Sud-Amerika Line, from Pernambuco 21/9.

Air Reconnaissance.

✓ Special reconnaissance from 0730 North East from Shetlands and diverging search by 4 a/c's North of Shetlands.

Danish warning.

Warning issued from Copenhagen that ships must have pilots if they proceed South of 55° 45' N. and that no ship is allowed East of meridian through Terkomer Light.

War Diary.

10.10.39
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's reported.

0925 — By A/C, suspected to be s/m, 62° 20' N. 1° 24' E. (I.C. 0231/39)

Foreign Stations.

1100 — 2 S/M's reported steering south, off Santiago Island, Cape de Verde, by Consul Lisbon from Portuguese Naval source. Also reported 9/10 (I.C.0232/39)

War Diary. 10. 10. 1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Contraband Control. Your 1142/7 and Admiralty 0030/8. Question of contraband control in the Mediterranean. Suggestions for areas and organisation. Possible use of a Greek or Turkish harbour. (D.O.D.(F), 2102/10, to C.in C., Med.) Reply to above, (C. in C., Med., 0153/14).

War Diary. 10. 10. 1939.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Force "H". SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE to become Force H, SUSSEX as Senior Officer, to fuel Cape Town or Simonstown on arrival 13/10 and sailed during night of 13-14/10 for patrol. Area detailed. (C.in C., S.A., 1224/10).

America and West Indies.

Dispositions.

Dispositions consequent on Admiralty 1409/5, indicating arrival of Force Y as hunting groups in West Indies. Composition of forces to be:--
(a) Jamaica Force, ORION, PERTH and Canadian destroyers.
(b) Antilles Force, French training cruiser JEANNE D'ARC, French sloop VILLE D'YS, French submarine AGOSTA.
(c) Oil Supply Protective Force, DUNDEE, PENZANCE, French submarine OUESSANT.
Intended that Force Y should act independently in West Indies area south of latitude 030° North, based on Kingston and Caribbean Sea.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 0617/10)

East Indies.

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Possibility of her refuelling in one of the six good anchorages in Seychelles Islands. Desirable that some ship other than those in Forces H, I or J should watch those anchorages.
(C.N.S., 0145/10)

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet. Position at 1400 between Iceland and Faroes. The enmmy force for which the Home Fleet was searching was shadowed to approximately the latitude of Stavanger, when contact was lost. A force, believed to be the above, was reported passing through the Belts southwards early on 10/10.

Humber Force. EDINBURGH at Rosyth, Remainder of 2 C S at Scapa.

Northern Patrol. 6 cruisers on Northern Patrol. 11th C.S. see V.A.N.P. 1543/10.

Operations by Dover Destroyers. At 1230 three enemy warships were reported off Ameland (N. Holland) steering West and about the same time 3 ~~ships~~ M.V.s with 7 warships were sighted proceeding up the Dutch coast from Rotterdam. All available destroyers at Dover were ordered to patrol from Thames Estuary eastward to the North Hinder and aircraft were sent to search parallel to the Dutch and Belgian coasts. At 1620 the aircraft reported 6 enemy destroyers off Terschelling proceeding E by N. at 30 knots, and at 1816 the Dover destroyers were ordered to return to their base.

Convoys. ✓ Sailing of East Coast convoys for today was cancelled on account of bad weather in the North Sea.

Norwegian tankers. ✓ Attempts made by Norwegian tankers to smuggle oil into Germany prevented by Swedish authorities.

Enemy Intelligence.

German patrols. Small patrol vessels are maintained off Danish coast North of Esbjerg. Air patrols between Esbjerg and Dutch coast U-boats on Norwegian coast are reported to be on fixed patrols. At sunrise and sunset they appear to be in the same positions.

✓ It appears probable that a regular patrol of flying boats is in force from 57°20'N 3°E to the latitude of the Shetlands, and a further patrol along the Norwegian coast. (I.C. 0239/39)

OSTMARK ✓ It is reported that on 9/10 OSTMARK (seadrome) was berthed alongside the inner harbour at Las Palmas. It is also stated that German Junker aeroplanes left Gando p.m. 7/10 for an unknown destination and that there are now no German a/c's at Gando (I.C 0239/39). Spanish Govt. has protested against the activities of aeroplanes based on the OSTMARK

War Diary.

11.10.39
Wednesday.

6

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's reported. ✓ 30 miles East of Cromer (reliable) (unlocated) ~~(unlocated) off Tyne (Doubtful)~~

S/M's attacked.

1830, 2220, 2245 — A/S trawler LOCH TULA made d/c attack on s/m 11 miles from Great Ormes Head. WINCHILSEA and WALPOLE dropped 4 pattern of d/c's; s/m was assessed by Committee as probably sunk. Since discovered to be a wreck. 53°37'N 4°6'W

1620 — BEAGLE attacked a contact in 51 17 18"N. 1 42.7' E. Considered non-submarine (M.013166/39)

2201 — GRIMSBY made 3 attacks on s/m. 70 miles West of Gibraltar (36°2'N, 6°50'W), after which nothing further was heard (IC 0232/39)

S/M's reported.

1420 — Trawler CREST FLOWER sighted periscope steerings, 4 miles E by S Souter Pt. Tyne (I.C. 0232/39)

0914 — Trawler sighted conning tower 53°18'N 2°6'E (25 miles N.E. Hasboro?) (IC 0231/39)

War Diary. 11. 10. 1939.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Belgian Coast Operations. French have cut and dried plans for destroying lock gate, machinery, etc., at Ostend and Zeebrugge. They consider German mechanised forces might gain the coast very quickly and as they could act immediately they (French) could reach objective within an hour or so. Considered important that Admiral Castex at Dunkirk should be fully informed of our plans.
(V.A., Dover, 2015/10).
(received 0008/11).

War Diary. 11.10.39 (6)
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 5 destroyers returned to Port A. REPULSE, FURIOUS, AURORA, NEWCASTLE and 4 destroyers returned to Scapa.

Humber Force. ✓ EDINBURGH at Rosyth. Remainder of force at Scapa.

Northern Patrol. ✓ 3 cruisers on patrol. In addition, SHEFFIELD on special patrol between Iceland and Greenland.
About this date VACNP took over charge of Kirkwall Base.

Air Reconnaissance. ✓ Normal reconnaissance patrols with an extra patrol north of Shetlands until further notice.

Minefields. Fifth lay of Folkestone - Gris Nez minefield completed successfully.

N.C. Dieppe. ✓ A British Naval Control Staff will be established within the next few days (Adty to Dieppe 1939/11)

War Diary.

12. 10. 1939,
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

Attacks by ~~WINCHELSEA~~ WINCHELSEA and WALPOLE.	M.012116/39. Dated 13.10.1939. H.M.S. WINCHELSEA+ Reported Attack on Enemy Submarine (with enclosures). Refers to proceedings of WINCHELSEA, Commander C. T. Jellicoe, and WALPOLE on 11th and 12th October, 1939.

War Diary. 12.10.39
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Activity broke out in the Western Approaches after a period of complete quiet.

Ships Attacked.

EMILE MIQUET / 1808. French EMILE MIQUET (14115 tons) was sunk by U.41 190 miles S.W. of Fastnet. She left convoy on her own initiative. (C.in C.Rosyth 1844/13/11)

ARIS / ARIS (Greek 4810 tons) sunk by submarine 300 miles west of Achwi Island (Ireland). 27 of crew saved by Danish SICILIAN. Was shelled before being abandoned. 1st Officer and 1 crew killed, 7 wounded. s/m. towed boats for 9 hours during night and left them next morning 90 miles from Irish coast, where SICILIAN picked them up. Sunk by gunfire & dynamite Machines 53°28'N 14°30'E. M01677 8/39. List of Greek vessels sunk by German Action)

Submarines attacked. / 1638. WOLVERINE attacked contact in 51° 31'N. 5° 41' W. Considered non-sub.(M.013296/39).

Submarines reported.

1020 4 miles N by E of Flamborough Head, S.S. RUDMORE sighted s/c.
1 mile North of Gobbins Head (N.E.Ireland)
Off Dover (search, no result.)
1312 Off Newhaven, 2'S 29°E from P.W.S.S.
300 miles W.S.W. of Ireland.
160 miles West of Ireland.
~~0500~~ Off Hebrides, 30 miles N.W. Sule Skerry. Approached trawler WISTAN. In sight 20 minutes. (ICC238/39)
Off Cadiz (doubtful)

1500 Off Christiansand, small s/m. reported (ICC235/39)
1632 50°N 18'W S.S MATINA sighted s/m (ICC233/39)
1825 A/c sighted U-boat 56° 45'N 7°40'W (do.)
1028 A/c. saw s/m dive 51°6'N 1°14'E (Off Folkestone)

War Diary.

12.10.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Forces K, G, H.	Allocation of areas for operations to Forces K, G, and H. (C. in C., S.A., 1440/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

(M.015672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L. of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39

Cdre. S.A.D. 1922/12 concurred in his transfer to AJAX which had been proposed by C. in C. S.A. 1820/10 and approved by Admiralty 1744 "So that the Commander might retain effective control of the South American trade areas, in view of C. in C. S.A's operational control of Force G. and the necessity of their keeping W/T silence for long periods.
Cdre. S.A.D. pointed out that the endurance of EXETER, being approximately half that of CUMBERLAND, would seriously hamper the operation of Force G. and he suggested the substitution of a second 10,000 ton cruiser for EXETER would considerably enlarge the possible hunting area of the Force. He reported the order of relative importance of areas off the South American coast appeared to be:-
(1) Rive Plate focal area.
(2) Rio de Janeiro - Santos focal area.
(3) Diverted routes in a semi-circle, of 600 miles radius from a point roughly midway between the Plate and Rio de Janeiro.
(4) Diverted routes within a circle 500 miles from position 20° S, 28° W.
He suggested that (4) might normally be covered by an A.M.C., unless an enemy warship were known to be in the vicinity; unless EXETER were relieved by a ship of greater endurance it was not practicable for Force G. to operate so far from their fuelling base in the Plate.
Admiralty 1820/12 informed Cdre. S.A.D. that it had been decided to offer the Chileans 3000 tons of oil fuel, in order that they might be able to carry out an adequate patrol of the unfrequented bays in South Chile. See Admiralty 1746/23/9. Cdre. S.A.D. 2055/23/9.

(7)

12.10.39.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. FURIOUS proceeded from Scapa to Port A. during night 11/12 Oct.
REPULSE proceeded from Scapa to Rosyth during night 11/12 Oct.
NEWCASTLE and GLASGOW sailed for patrol in Western Approaches.

Humber Force. SOUTHAMPTON and 4 destroyers at Scapa.
EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. SHEFFIELD in Denmark Strait, 4 other cruisers on Normal patrol lines.

Redistribution of Destroyers. Admiralty 1953/12.

Casualties. ECHO grounded and damaged her stern entering Plymouth harbour in thick fog. Repaired at Plymouth.

Convoy. Escorts for East Coast Convoys were considerably strengthened. 2 A.A. cruisers, 6 destroyers and 6 escort vessels allotted.
British a/cs. to co-operate in case of air attacks on convoys passing up and down the East coast.
(NLO, H.Q. F.C. 2015/10)

Scandinavian Convoys. Arrangements made for a convoy between Bergen and Firth of Forth (D.O.D. 0001/12)

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Guns being moved westward. Unconfirmed report that Germans are removing some coast defence guns from Memel and the Kurische Nehrung (E. Prussia) and transferring them by train in a westerly direction.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Raider ? DEUTSCHLAND. Master of Norwegian S.S. JACOB CHRISTENSEN reports he was stopped by a German warship resembling DEUTSCHLAND class 300 miles 070 from St. Johns, Newfoundland (48° 50' N, 45° 9' W.)
1600/12 ship was sighted in 43° 42' N, 46° 2' W, 8000 tons, 4 inch guns, Italian flag on sides.

WAR DIARY. 13.10.39
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

GRESSHOLM p.m. **Sunk** — s.s.GRESSHOLM (Norwegian 619 tons, ex-NEPTUN) was sunk by mine 90 miles NW of Texel. 8 rescued, 3 killed, 55° 35' N, 2° 55' E. She was far outside any British minefield. (N.I.D 4620/39, Norwegian ships sunk by German action during September/October)

HERONSPOOL about 1.a.m. **Sunk** — s.s.HERONSPOOL (5,202 tons) sunk by S/M 260 miles SW of Fastnet. Crew picked up by PRESIDENT HARDING 0721/13. In outward bound convoy from Liverpool. She had been attacked since 2030/12 by the s/m, and had steered away to the N.E. to escape. Sank about 0500. Torpedo s/m. did not use guns at all. Report of Mr. Sidney Batson, Master. Cargo 8200 tons anthracite.

LOUISIANE 1030 **Sunk** — s.s.LOUISIANE (French 6903 tons) sunk by S/M 240 miles SW of Fastnet. IMOGEN picked up survivors. The master considered he would have escaped if his ship had been armed, as the S/M attacked at close quarters and on the surface.

STONEPOOL 0730 **Escaped** — s.s.STONEPOOL (4803 tons) was attacked with gunfire by a S/M (U42) in 48° 40' N 15° 55' W. She engaged the enemy (0903), was chased for 5 hours. Escaped and returned to Barry with IMOGEN, with a shell hole in her fore-hold. Master Mr. A. White, was awarded O.B.E, gunlayer F. G. Hayter M.B.E.
0620 s/m reported 48°41'N, 15°30'W, probably same as the above (I.C.0238/39)

U-boats attacked. U.42 Sunk. — U42 (740 tons, completed about 4/39) was destroyed by IMOGEN (Commander E.B.K.Stevens) and ILEX (Lieutenant Commander P.L.Saumarez) 290 miles SW of Fastnet, answering the STONEPOOL's SOS. C.B.04051(4) "U42" Interrogation of survivors.

U40 destroyed. — U40 (740 tons, completed 2/39) struck a mine in the Folkestone - Gris Nez deep minefield and was destroyed. C.B 04051(5) "U40" Interrogation of survivors.

AFRIDI attacked S/M off Beachy Head. Since discovered to be a wreck.

BLACKBURN ROVER and GRIMSBY TOWN attacked suspected S/M in 51° 16' N 5° 48' W. Doubtful result.

1500 ECLIPSE attacked S/M off Lizard. Probably sunk (Assmnt.Ctee.)

1500 LADY BERYL and P.C.74 and KINGFISHER hunting S/M off Liverpool.

STALBERG 0820 **escaped.** Trawler STALBERG was fired on by s/m in 52° 51'N 10° 3'W but escaped. (IC 0237/39)

1600 British bird A/c reported s/m 30 miles N.W. Hause (IC 0235/39)

0124 Unidentified enemy unit, probably U-boat, 53°30'N 18°0'W, position unreliable (IC 0233/39)

(1)

WAR DIARY. 13.10.39.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. At Port A.

S/M bases. Owing to lack of A/A defence orders were given for the S/M bases at Blyth and Dundee to be moved to Rosyth forthwith (Adty 2052/13). Accordingly the 2nd and 6th Flotillas left Blyth and Dundee.

Casualties. While at anchor in Rosyth SABRE was damaged when rammed by A.M.C. JERVIS BAY. Docked at Grangemouth for repairs.

A Sunderland was forced down and lost 50 miles WSW of St.Mary, Scillies.

Convoys. Owing to U-boats commencing activities in the dispersal area of the outward bound convoys from Liverpool, convoys have been ordered to keep in company for a further 48 hours outward bound.

Enemy Intelligence.

14 s/m's stated by the French to be Russian are reported to have passed through the Kiel Canal westward during the night 12/13 October (IC 0937/39)

War Diary. 13. 10. 1939,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

ECLIPSE, Attack on Enemy Submarine.

M. 013451/39. Dated 30.10.1939. H.M.S. ECLIPSE, Report of proceedings, attack on enemy submarine, on 13. 10. 1939. C.O., Lieutenant-Commander E. L. Woodhall.

ECLIPSE carried out counter-attack on U-boat in position 49° 38' N., 05°45' W. Air bubbles and very considerable quantity of oil surfaced. Second full pattern fired 45 minutes later. Further air bubbles, oil and later large patches of lubricating oil surfaced. (ECLIPSE, ~~6045~~ 1501/13).

BOREAS, Rescue of Survivors from Mined Submarine.

Submarine U.40 seen by BRAZEN 155 degrees 9 miles from S. Goodwin light vessel at 0945. BOREAS, in vicinity, took on board survivors. No officers saved. One man said submarine mined at 0200 this morning. Other details. (V.A., Dover, 1022/13, 1300/13, 1729/13).

U-Boat Attacked.

13th Sub-Division destroyed U-boat now lying 173° Beachy Head 3.4 miles, emitted heavy oil and air bubbles for two hours. After first attack she let out a little diesel oil and made off fast. (Capt. D.4, 1401/13). TEDWORTH to carry out diving operations (D.O.D. (H), 1906/13), (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1220/14), (1226/14).

War Diary. 14. 10. 1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

STURGEON Attack on S/M.

M.013341/39. Dated 29.10.1939. H.M.S. STURGEON, Attack on U-Boat on 14.10.1939, Report.

M.013533/39. Dated 31.10.1939. H.M.S. STURGEON, Patrol Narrative, includes reference to 250-ton U-Boat attacked 14.10.39 and "probably sunk".

Campaign Effect on Fleet Disposition.

Now that one U-boat commander has shown enterprise and skill, another may endeavour to emulate him at Port A. Comparison of situation at Scapa and Rosyth. (C.N.S., 1711/14).

Your 1711/14. Fleet proceeding to sea to-morrow Sunday afternoon. Dispositions. On return will transfer to Rosyth. Question as regards reinforcements of destroyers. (C. in C., H.F., 2018/14).

U-Boat Attacked.

My 1121/14. Consider that KARAMEA's U-boat sunk at 1530 in 900 fathoms. Contact maintained for two hours on moving targets giving hydrophone and doppler effect. (Details). (Capt.(D)/3rd D.F., 1930/14).

WAR DIARY 14.10.39.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

LOCHAVON 0430 LOCHAVON (9,205 tons) was attacked about 230 miles SW of the Fastnet and abandoned. Sank 150 miles SW of Fastnet 1800/16 (ISIS). She was in homeward bound unescorted convoy from Kingston, Jamaica.
Sunk 16/10.

SNEATON 1222 SNEATON (3,678 tons) sunk by S/M 150 miles SW of Ireland. Crew picked up by Belgian merchant ship. She failed to find and attach herself to a convoy.
Sunk

BRETAGNE 0828 BRETAGNE (French 3,285 tons) sunk by S/M 130 miles SW of Fastnet. Crew picked up. The Master considered he would have escaped if his ship had been armed, as the S/M attacked at close quarters and on the surface. Survivors picked up by IMOGEN and ILEX 1100/14.
Sunk

KARAMEA 0727 KARAMEA (British 8,457 tons) was shelled about 100 miles SW of Fastnet, 0840 S/M reported gaining. She escaped. Master, Leandr. L.D. Graystan DSC, RD, RNR was awarded O.B.E.
Escaped

S/Ms attacked. 1530 INGLEFIELD and IVANHOE attacked S/M 1530 in Western Approaches. Believed successful. Probably sunk (Assmt.Ctee). This S/M had attacked the KARAMEA.
1400 STURGEON attacked S/M in Skagerrak, 20 miles West of Skaw. Believed successful. Probably sunk. (Assmt.Ctee.)

S/M's reported. ? time S/M reported 30 miles E of Belfast.

NORTH ATLANTIC U 89 (large U-boat) reported near Cape St.Vincent (FOCNA 1200/17, 1304/25/10).

SOUTH ATLANTIC S/M reported sighted North of Bahia (Brazil) (Reporting Officer Campos 2310/25/10). Also reported between Penedo and Pernambuco (Bahia 1811/27/10).

0000 } S.S. LOUTH was missed by torpedo in 54° 24' N 5° 19' W.
1400 } LADY BERYL fired at c/T and dropped 4 d/c's 11 miles 270 Bar light Vessel, Liverpool. (I.C.0236/39)

1100 A/c unsuccessfully attacked s/m 63° 45' N 5° 52' E (do)

0700 Drifter QUIET WATERS sighted s/m 4 to 5 miles ESE Scarborough. (do).

2010 A/c reported s/m 1 mile N Bass Rock (IC 0236/39)

1800 Trawler EARL ESSEX reported U-boat with Belgian trawler in attendance 54° 10' N 2° E.

WAR DIARY. 14.10.39
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

MEDITERRANEAN

C.C.Station Dardanelles. It has been decided to institute a Contraband Control Station off the Dardanelles for the examination of ships entering the Mediterranean (M.011843/39).

NORTH ~~SOUTH~~ ATLANTIC

OSTMARK. German s.s.OSTMARK (t) acting as seadrome at Las Palmas (C.in C.S.A. 1730/39).

LORENTZ. W. HANSEN Norwegian (tons) sunk by gunfire and torpedo by DEUTSCHLAND in North Atlantic. Ship searched and crew ordered to disembark, ship afterwards sunk. Crew taken on board DEUTSCHLAND and later transferred to Norwegian M/V KONGSDAL. L.W.HANSEN was bound for Faroes from Nelson N.B. (N.I.D 4620/39, Norwegian ships sunk by German action during September/October)

War Diary. 14.10.1939,
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Caribbean Reconnaissance. Suggestion for COMMANDANT TESTE to operate from Fort Royal, Martinique and Kingston, Jamaica, to increase ability to deal with raiders in this important area. (D.O.D. (F), 1336/14).

South Atlantic.

Merchant Traffic. Requesting sailing dates, routes and speeds for southbound merchant ships on station. (C. in C., S.A., 1940/14). Not possible to signal this information on account of extra burden on communications already heavily loaded. S.O.(I) Freetown is informed of sailing dates from U.K. and expected arrival dates at ports on station of all important passenger vessels. (Asst.Sec.1st S.L., 1832/21).

French Forces. Further to my 1940/14, little or no information from French Admiral at Dakar. Details of liaison with French. Increasing importance of Freetown as a base, and difficulties of supply, mails, etc. Refers to a more detailed signal to Admiralty on this subject (my 1730/15). (C. in C., S.A. 1715/15).

War Diary.

14. 10. 1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

ROYAL OAK, Inquiry, Divers' Inspection.

No merchant ships to be allowed to sail from Kirkwall until further orders. (C.N.S., 0554/14).
Cancel my 0554/14 (D.C.N.S., 1116/14).
Consider ROYAL OAK sunk by torpedoes with magnetic pistol fired from submarine. (Details).
Submarine may have passed through Hoxa boom about 2200 Thursday 12/10. (A.C.O.S., 0746/14).
In view of your 1045/14 (cancelling 0704 forbidding reference to ROYAL OAK in P/L), cancel my 1109/14 (requesting instructions as to withholding civilian telephonic communication with mainland). (A.C.O.S., 1209/14).
C.in C. H.F.'s 1133/14. Had considered this.
Searches by destroyers, minesweepers and aircraft carried out. (A.C.O.S., 1325/14).
King of Norway expression of condolence (N.A., Oslo, 1505/14).
Orders to armed merchant cruisers and oilers.
Hunting in Flow to continue (C. in C., H.F., 1401/14).
German official announcement they are without confirmation from any German source. From this it would appear that submarine is still in the harbour (D.C., 2046/14). Do not hesitate to use searchlights for hunting submarine to-night. (D.C., 2252/14).
Divers examined port side and flat bottom of ROYAL OAK, found no damage yet (A.C.O.S.,2223/14).
Survivors not to be sent south without previous reference to Admiralty (C.N.S., 0113/15).

Inquiry, Terms.

Board of Inquiry to be held Scapa. Officers, Admiral Drax (President), Vice-Adm. Raikes and Capt. Muirhead-Gould. To investigate (1) Whether loss due to action by an enemy submarine, and if so, (2) How the submarine was able to enter Scapa Flow and how this can be prevented in future, (3) The subsequent sinking of the ship. (1st S.L., 1202/16).
Search gives no indication of presence of submarine. (A.C.O.S., 2113/16). Hunt is to continue (1st S.L., 1202/17). Suggest search alongside ROYAL OAK eastern side, submarine may have been pinned down when ROYAL OAK sank (C. in C., H.F.,1858/18).
Inquiry, first impressions, ROYAL OAK certainly sunk by submarine. (A.C.O.S.,2300/18)
Reports of divers' examination (A.C.O.S.,2010/20, 1509/28; 2230/27).
Interview with survivor (Cdre.,R.N.B., Portsmouth, 1540/21).

WAR DIARY. 14.10.39
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. At Port A.

ROYAL OAK Sunk. At 0100 ROYAL OAK was sunk by a series of explosions while anchored in the East end of Scapa Flow. Enemy S/M responsible. All available destroyers and light craft searching the Flow. Attacker was not located. 24 officers K, 5W, 786 ratings K (excluding 18 Maltese) All large ships in Scapa were ordered to sea. Among these were 4 AMC's, only 3 of which had completed working up. The remaining 6 were short of warm clothing, but all had to proceed to Northern Patrol lines. (M01491/39)

ORZEL Polish S/M ORZEL, escaped from Tallinn, arrived off May Island and was escorted in.

Convoys Convoy FN 21 (Thames to Firth of Forth) was cancelled on account of weather.

Contraband Control. 86 neutral ships, total 448,540 tons, in U.K. ports for examination. (Kirkwall 26 - 121,138 tons
Ramsgate 37 - 205,808 "
Weymouth 23 - 121,594 ")
Also at Ramsgate 5 British ships, total 23,197 tons

German Minefield. The Germans have announced the following danger zone:-

53°	36'	N	4° 25' E
53°	36'	N	6° 2' E
53°	30'	N	3° 0' E
53°	30'	N	4° 25' E

Ships can still reach the Northern Bay, North or South of this danger zone.

War Diary.

14.10.1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

ROYAL OAK, Sinking.

ROYAL OAK sunk in Scapa Flow, series of explosions. (A.C.O.S., 0200/14). No details yet available, (A.C.O.S., ~~0206~~ 0211/14). Report from Captain, (A.C.O.S., 0504/14). Can it be definitely stated sinking not due to enemy aircraft (C.N.S., 0506/14). Reply, Yes (A.C.O.S., 0620/14). Probable sunk by torpedoes, divers being sent (A.C.O.S., 0641/14). PEGASUS reports 300 survivors on board (A.C.O.S., 0345/14). Only evidence to date, 3 internal explosions, ROYAL OAK was lying off Eastern end of Scapa Flow (A.C.O.S., 0320/14). Request instructions as to withholding civilian telephonic communication (A.C.O.S., 1109/14). Your 1109/14, following has been given to Press (D.C., 1155/14). Possibility that after air reconnaissance yesterday afternoon submarine entered through Kirk Sound at slack highwater at about 2315 and will attempt to get out same way to-day or to-morrow (C. in C., H.F., 1133/14). Send all big ships to sea, A.M.C.'s being sent on patrol, BELFAST to Port "A" (C.in C., H.F., 1034/14). Consider GUARDIAN laying nets to cover exits from Kirk Skerry and East Weddel Sounds. Use every possible means including aircraft to prevent submarine getting out and informing German Admiralty (C. in C., H.F., 1003/14). Cancel my 0554/14 (D.C.N.S., 1116/14). Request information when ROYAL OAK last carried out firings, date of last ammunitioning and oiling, store ships last alongside, when she took up berth, and whether Scapa is definitely submarine-proof. (C.N.S., 0643/14, to A.C.O.S.) No reference to ROYAL OAK to be made in plain language until further orders, this includes lists of survivors (D.C., 0704/14). 0704 cancelled (D.C., 1045/14).

Facts So Far Known.

Statement of facts so far known (1030/14), for D.C.N.S.

12.10.39. German plane over Scapa Flow, would have shown REPULSE, FURIOUS and ROYAL OAK in harbour, besides smaller craft. Dusk, 12/10, REPULSE and FURIOUS sailed, REPULSE to dock, FURIOUS because of possibility of air attack. 2200/12, Men sleeping below in gate vessel at Hoxa Gate heard sounds of propellers and reported to watch on deck. Some indication boom nets may have been disturbed, but nothing seen. Presumed S/M entered at this time, may have looked for REPULSE and FURIOUS, and failing to find them remained on bottom throughout 13th. 0055/14, S/M, presumably located ROYAL OAK during 13th, fired first torpedo; 20 minutes later, two or three more torpedoes, which caused ROYAL OAK to sink. A.C.O.S. ordered all ships to raise steam, and except destroyers they proceeded to sea through Switha Gate. Hoxa Gate closed at this time, not since reopened. 3 destroyers now hunting inside Flow, but A.C.O.S. thinks she may have escaped through the boom.

War Diary. 15.10.1939, Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

U-Boat Salvage. British ships RHODORA and EVADNE may be used for diving operations. Not armed, require A/S escort. (A.C.W.A., to N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1127/15).

U.42 Survivors. Three officers and 14 ratings from U-boat U.42 left Plymouth by 1430 train to-day for Paddington. (C.in C., W.A., 1502/15).

U-Boat Situation. U-Boat situation S.W. of Ireland on 12th, 13th and 14th October. Refers to attacks on EMILE MIGUET, STONEPOOL, HERONSPOOL, LOCHAVON, BRETAGNE, KARAMEA, LOUISIANNE, and SNEATON, and to attacks on U-boats and sinking of U.42. (C. in C., W.A., 1705/15).

TEDWORTH, Diving. Diving operations off Beachy Head by TEDWORTH, destroyer cover. (D.C., 0132/15).

WAR DIARY

15.10.39
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

VERMONT Sunk. 0755 VERMONT (French 5186t) was sunk 360 miles SW of Eastnet INGLEFIELD picked up 43 survivors, a lost 48°N 16°55'W.

S/M's attacked.

1615 BROKE and FLEETWOOD hunting U-boat off Blyth (cf.16/10) COSSACK and MAORI attacked S/M 083° Coquet Island 6 miles

0980(?) MOHAWK attacked S/M 340° Flamborough Head.4 miles
1140)

1003 STORK attacked S/M 015° Scarborough Rock 6.5 miles.
KINGFISHER and P.C.74 hunting S/M off Liverpool.
GLEANER continued the hunt 16/10 (2045).

0900 Enemy S/M reported crossing May Island loop. Searching.Firth of Forth swept.Convoy FS 22 cancelled so that escorts may hunt.

1817 Flying boat attacked S/M 110 miles S. of Ireland.

S/M's reported.

1445 56° 16'N 1°30'W (9 miles N Blyth) Reported by A/C. Considered reliable (I.C.0237/39)

2107 56° 7'N 8° 10'E. Possible U-boat (IC 0237/39)

0025 56° 40'N 2° 20'E. Position unreliable (IC 0236/39)

WAR DIARY. 15.10.39
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

DEUTSCHLAND About 900 miles East of Nova Scotia the DEUTSCHLAND placed an armed guard on board the U.S.A.Ship CITY OF FLINT and transferred to her the crew of the British s.s.STONEGATE which she sank by gunfire 5/10 in 31° 10' 54° 0' W. See 22/10.

War Diary. 15.10.1939,
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Searches, H.M.S. LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL to search Seychelles and Amirante Group, Providence, Farquhar and Aldabara anchorages. Group I searching Maldives about 21st Oct. "D" class cruisers on passage to China asked to examine Cargados, Carajos and Chagos group. (C.in C., E.I., 1737/15). (This in reply to C.N.S. 1957/14).

War Diary

15. 10. 1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Narvik Convoy. Narvik convoy must wait. The four destroyers should proceed to Scapa and remain there until situation is cleared up there. (C.N.S.,1413/15).

Fleet at Rosyth. Requesting information earliest date at which Fleet expects to Rosyth as arrangements being made for extra fighter squadrons. (C.N.S. to C.in C., H.F., 1349/15.

Nets, Kirk Sound. C. in C.H.F.'s 1003/14. Proposed that H.M.S. GUARDIAN should prepare and lay nets off Kirk Sound. (A.C.O.S., 2045/14, received 0032/15).

Rosyth A/S Defence. In view of recent events at Scapa, considered that a permament asdic watch should be kept on Oxcars Gate. Request further A/S trawlers be provided. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1245/15) (Date on signal 15.9.39, evidently error).

WAR DIARY. 15.10.39
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet — Left Port A p.m. 15/10 for operations between Faroes and Iceland.

Northern Patrol. — 5 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes. 4 A.M.C's between Faroes and Iceland. 4 A.M.C's in Denmark Straits.

Air Patrols. — Following additional patrols being carried out:-
(1) Two Hudsons from East Coast of Scotland to Norway.
(2) Reconnaissance patrol along Dutch coast.
(3) Search over area round Ower Bank (40' off Norfolk Coast).

Firth of Forth swept. — Swept on account of enemy S/M reported crossing May Island loop.

Convoys. — Convoy FS 22 (Methil - Thames S) cancelled so that escorts may hunt enemy S/M reported crossing May Island loop at 0900.
Convoy from Narvik ordered 1518 not to sail until further orders, to allow concentration of destroyers at Scapa.
Convoys O.A.19 (outward from Thames) and OB 19 (outward from Liverpool) ordered not to disperse in position given but disperse at dark 18/10.
Convoy K.J.2 (Kingston, Jamaica - Homeward) diverted. (This convoy was stopped early in October).
First Bergen convoy escorted by SOUTHAMPTON and 4 destroyers crossed safely (5 Polish, 1 French, 1 Greek m.v).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

Air Activity. — Greatly increased activity is reported at aerodromes bordering on the Heligoland Bight.

16. 10. 1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

AFRIDI, Attack on S/M. — M. 014493/39. H.M.S. AFRIDI, Attack on Enemy S/M in Firth of Forth on 16.10.1939. My 1950/18 (U-boat destroyed by AFRIDI), obstruction located by minesweepers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1440/22).

U-boat attacked, INGLEFIELD, IVANHOE. — Report from Capt. D.3 of attack by INGLEFIELD and IVANHOE on U-boat in position 51°00' N., 18° 00' W. at 0900/16. In my opinion this may be regarded as a successful attack. (A.C.W.A., 1835/18).

U.40, Buoy. — Indicator buoy with light and telephone cable belonging to U.40 brought into Dover. (V.A., Dover, 1907/16). Inspection, etc. (R.A.S., Aberdour, 0014/17, R.A.S., DOLPHIN, 0949/17).

WAR DIARY

16.10.39
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's reported.

0924 off C.Finisterre, position approximately (I C 0248/39) sighted south of Isle of Man.
S/m ← (? WHIRLWIND + WALPOLE attacked and slightly damaged!).

S/M's attacked.

1820 BEAGLE attacked contact 51° 20' N 1° 40' E. Considered non-sub (M.013166/39).

INTREPID and ICARUS hunting U-boat 49° 42' N 9° 59' E.
GLEANER attacked S/M 184° 17 miles Great Ormes Head.
STORK and MOHAWK made unsuccessful attacks ESE Scarborough.

2238 AFRIDI and HASTINGS attacked S/M off Inchkeith Light. Later found to be a mooring buoy.
BROKE and FLEETWOOD off Blyth. No result.

0919 COSSACK attacked S/M North of Blyth.

INGLEFIELD and IVANHOE attacked S/M in Western Approaches. Not yet classified.

2315 KINGSTON and KEITH hunting s/m 3 miles S. of Bolt Hd. (near Start Pt.) (I.C. 0238/39)

2000 BLACKFLY attacked contact 1½ miles North of Outer Dowsing. Believed successful (F.O. Humber 1842/25).

1906 WANDERER dropped 1 d/c. on assumed s/m in Firth of Forth (I.C. 0238/39)

S/m's Reported.

1300 15 miles 040° Ronalds Way (S.E. pt of I. of Man). By A/C, course S.W. (I.C 0238/39) (vide WHIRLWIND + WALPOLE above.)

1800 6 off Rhum I. S.E of Islay. C.G. report. A loud explosion was heard to SW of this island at 0430/16. (IC 0238/39).

WAR DIARY. 16.10.39
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

MEDITERRANEAN

Convoys. Independent sailing of merchant vessels through the Mediterranean was reverted to.

1st D.F. 1st D.F. to return home for work in Western Approaches. To be replaced by 5 R.A.N. destroyers from Singapore owing to shortage of destroyers at home. (Adty. D.O.D.(M)1946/16, D.O.D.(F) 1950/16)).

NORTH ATLANTIC

HALLE (Scuttled) German s.s.HALLE (5889 t) scuttled herself off Dakar to avoid capture by French cruiser DUGUAY-TROUIN.

EAST INDIES

UHENFELS German s.s.UHENFELS (7,603 t) left Lorenço Marques at dusk. EGRET on patrol failed to sight her. LIVERPOOL and DURBAN informed (C.in C. E.I. 19322/17). However she failed to escape and returned.

WAR DIARY. 16.10.39
Monday.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

GERMAN MINEFIELDS

Minefields. A shallow German minefield has been established between the south-eastern corner of Felsterperk Island and Darperkeroht on the mainland.
? Darsnerort

Prohibited Area. Germany has declared a new prohibited area between Jiedser Point and Dars Point in the West Baltic. Pilot stations are established.

Bombers. It is confirmed that bombers have been transfered from Erfurt to the Heligoland Bight area (I.C. 0238/39)

WAR DIARY

16.10.39
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

REPULSE undocked 1715 at Rosyth.
JERSEY undocked 1700 at Leith.

NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, FURIOUS, BELFAST, AURORA and 10 destroyers covering the Armed Merchant Cruisers of the Northern Patrol.

Northern Patrol.

4 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes. 5 A.M.C's between Faroes and Iceland. 3 A.M.C's in Denmark Straits.

Detached Squadron.

1st Detached Squadron (*vide* 7 Oct.) carrying bullion arrived at Halifax p.m.

Air Attacks. on Firth of Forth.

An attack on Firth of Forth was carried out by German aircraft, estimated 9 - 12 in number, between 1434 and 1654, after reconnaissance earlier in the day. Object of attack was ships in harbour and Forth Bridge. No attack was made on the Dockyard. Our aircraft went up to intercept. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH sustained minor damage. MOHAWK sustained damage to superstructure when returning with the Scandinavian Convoy. The Forth bridge was unhit. Enemy losses were 4 aircraft brought down, 3 by fighters and 1 by A.A. fire. Possibly 3 more enemy raiders were hit. Enemy a/c tactics see Adty.1945/17, H.Q. F.C. 2300/16 to Air Min. SOUTHAMPTON 1 rating K, 6 ratings W. EDINBURGH 1 officer K, 1 rating K, 7 ratings W.

Rosyth S/M Sanctuary.

This was established midnight 16-17/10 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1329/16)

6

WAR DIARY 17.10.39
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships attacked. Unescorted Convoy HG 3 (Gibraltar to U.K.) was attacked about NW of Cape Finisterre.

YORKSHIRE Sunk. 1630 s.s.YORKSHIRE (10,183 t) Commodore's ship (R-A Bedford) a liner which left Rangoon 7/9 and took on board military families from NEVASA at Gibraltar was sunk 44° 52'N 14° 31'W (about 360 miles NW of C.Finisterre). Heavy loss of life, including miscellaneous Naval ratings 3K, 3W. Flying: 1 Officer W, ratings 2K, 1W.

CITY OF MANDALAY. Sunk. 1719 CITY OF MANDALAY (7028 t) sunk close by. A S/M had been reported 1050 gunning the convoy in 44° 54' N 12° 40' W and WAKEFUL, ELECTRA and H.M.C.ESCORT were ordered to attack by C.in C.Western Approaches.

IMPERIAL STAR. Escaped. 0754 s.s. S.S. M.S.IMPERIAL STAR (10,700 t, one 6 inch gun) 44° 54'N 12° 28' W gunned. Escaped. She was also attacked next day.

~~**GRESSHOLM Sunk.**~~ ~~M.V.GRESSHOLM(Norwegian 621 tons ex NEPTUN) sunk by mine 53° 55' N 2° 55' E, 70 miles off Texel. Not a British mine.~~

S/M's attacked. 1118 BEAGLE attacked echo 51° 7½' N 1° 23½' E. Considered non-sub. (M.013166/39).

S/M's reported.

By D/F 2020 South of Plymouth 49°20'N, 4°30'W. Reliable.
2123 E of Aberdeen, 57°N 0°40'E. Position unreliable.
2240 400 miles W. of North Scotland
1948 South of Norway

1044-1250 U-boat approximately 44° 56' N 12° 45' W suspected reporting.

1015 Between Folkestone and Dover. A/C sent to attack. (I.C.0239/39)
1255 6ff Redcar, Tees. Reported off shore by R.A. Battery (do.)
1250 020° Dunbar 5 miles. Periscope reported by C.G. Cil track near (do.)
1456 8 miles N.W. Flamphins (? Flamph Holm, Shetlands, 60°44'N, 1°5'W, s/m on surface, steering N.W. (I.C.0239/39))
1015 6ff North Landing, Flamborough Hd. course N. (I.C.0239/39)
1235 56° 15'N, 3° 30'E. Enemy unit, position reliable (—"—)
1931 57° 20'N, 6° 30'E. Position reliable (—"—)
1005 46° 40'N, 10° 50'W (I.C. 0238/39)

War Diary.

17. 10. 1939
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy.	Dept. of National Defence hope by early December one division, 17,000 troops, with equipment, ready to sail for U.K. Request whether shipping can be undertaken by Sea Transport Dept. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 2106/17. Reply, Sea Transport Dept. of Ministry of Shipping will undertake necessary arrangements. (1st S.L.,1810/25).

War Diary. 17.10.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HALLE, (German M.V.) N.C.S.O., Dakar, reports DUGUAY-TROUIN sank HALLE 16/10. V.A. Duplay in ALGERIE is in command of Force X, and is not under operational control of French Admiralty. He intends to retain Force X at Dakar. (C-in-C, S.A., 1832/17/10). (Note on Signal, Force X --

1st Div., French 8" +Cruisers,
DUPLEIX
(HERMES)
CASSARD
FOCH
MILAN.

WAR DIARY. 17.10.39
Tuesday.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

During the day a suspicious vessel was reported off Firth of Forth. Description corresponded accurately with that of German Sturmes Line.

? Date of laying of German minefield between

MONTE OLIVIA — German s.s. MONTE OLIVIA (13,750 t) arrived at Kiel. See 16/9.

TRIFELS captured. — French N.L.O reported capture of German S.S. TRIFELS (6200 tons) 400 miles West of Azores by French A.M.C. KOUTOUBIA.

H. OLDENDORF captured. — (3648 tons) captured by COLOMBO is being brought to Kirkwall. Left Huelva with 500 tons of mineral ore 2/10.

War Diary. 17.10.1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet Strength. Safety of Scapa. Will take time. Question of interim bases. Disposal to frustrate German object of attrition. REPULSE and FURIOUS to go as hunting force West Indies. (1st S.L., 2345/17).

Further suggestions, A/S defence of Rosyth, and CURLEW to be stationed at Scapa. (1st S.L., 2220/18).

War Diary. 17.10.1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Attack on HMS IRON DUKE.

Air Attack carried out, IRON DUKE severely damaged. Heavy list to port, am endeavouring to beach ship. (A.C.O.S., 1115/17).

IRON DUKE has been beached. No casualties reported so far. Am now on board GREENWICH. (A.C.O.S., 1136/17).

Air attacks carried out at ~~1035~~ 1033/17 by four bombers. Dive attacks. Bombs released from about 1,500 feet. Ship had two near misses port side. Took heavy list, now beached in Ore Bay and list considerably reduced. 1 aircraft shot down in flames, another possibly damaged. Wick aircraft did not get in touch. (A.C.O.S., 1155/17).

WAR DIARY

17.10.39
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Waters — NELSON, RODNEY, FURIOUS, HOOD, ANSON, BELFAST and 10 Destroyers covering A.M.C's off the North. East coast of Iceland (probably until 19/10 then return to Port "A").

SHEFFIELD (vide 0009 16/10) left Port"A' a.m. for Denmark Strait.

Humber Force. — SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH at Rosyth with 4 destroyers.

Northern Patrol. — Between Orkneys and Faroes 4 cruisers.
" Faroes and Iceland 4 A.M.C's.
In Denmark Strait 3 A.M.C's.

Enemy Air Activity. — German aircraft visited many parts of the East coast between the Thames and Scapa.

Attack on Scapa. — IRON DUKE at Scapa was attacked a.m. was holed by near misses, developed a list and was beached. One enemy a/c was brought down and another probably damaged. 1 rating killed.

IRON DUKE damaged. — p.m. there was a further attack on Scapa by a formation of 6 and another of 4. High level attacks at intervals from 1240 to 1430. No casualties or hits.
One Heinckel brought down.
At 1130 JUNO attacked a/c's shadowing her SE of the Farne Is. Aircraft came to her assistance. A Dornier flying boat was brought down off the Tyne by 607 Squadron R.A.F.
47 Squadron R.A.F. brought down one A/C off Whitby a.m.
1600 a trawler reported he encountered a German A/C in the sea 50 miles East of Dundee. No crew seen. Salvage attempts failed.
1530 a German seaplane machine gunned 3 unarmed trawlerminesweepers 2 miles off Spurn Point. No result.
1600 a German seaplane alighted on the water 25 miles NE of Tyne and remained 2 hours.
Later information (30 or 31/10) pointed to indications that Norwegian ships acted as informants to German bombers in raids on Scapa.

Convoy events. — About this date events for East coast convoys were considerably strengthened. Closer co-operation with Fighter command was arranged.
French Naval authorities have undertaken to provide escorts for all convoys between Gibraltar and Western Approaches.

LORENTZ W. HANSEN. — Foundered in Mid.Atlantic (at first believed sunk by S/M). Crew saved by Norwegian ship.

War Diary.

18. 10. 1939,
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-BOat Campaign and Mining.

Air Attacks on U-Boats.	M. 012299/39, dated 18.10. 1939. Subject, Reports of Aircraft Attacks on U-Boats, from Air Ministry. (Includes extract dealing with Anson Aircraft attack on H.M. submarine SEAHORSE, 17.9.1939.
U-boat Attacked, AFRIDI, etc.	Your 1715 (destruction of U-boat at 1510). Well done. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1901/18, to Capt. D.4, repeated WOOLSTON, VALORCUS, HASTINGS.) WHITEHALL ordered to proceed to position 06°, St. Abbs 3.2 miles where HMS AFRIDI has buoyed sunken submarine. (C. in C.,Rosyth, 1940/18). U-boat destroyed by AFRIDI, WOOLSTON, VALORCUS and HASTINGS at 1510. Details. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1950/18),(Capt. D.4, 1715/18).

U

War Diary

18.10.39.
Wednesday.

(6)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

SAGAING escaped

0653 SS. SAGAING chased by s/m SSSS 46° 17'N. 13° 12' W.

0738 SS. SAGAING another s/m appeared 46° 19' N. 13° 0' W.

GARTBRATTAN escaped.

0844 SS. GARTBRATTAN (1800 tons) chased by s/m SSSS 46° 30' N. 12° 46' W. Escaped. She was also attacked next day.

For both the above ships see M.012914/39 Report by Master of SS. BRITISH CAPTAIN on s/m attacks on Convoy H.G. 3.

CITY OF GUILDFORD escaped.

0714 SS. CITY OF GUILDFORD (5157 tons) was chased by s/m but escaped SSSS 46° 27' N. 12° 52' W.

IMPERIAL STAR escaped.

1124 M.V. IMPERIAL STAR (10700 tons, one 6 inch gun) SSSS 49° 54' N. 7° 52' W. (60 miles W. of Scillies). Not in Convoy, was attacked by s/m and escaped. INTREPID was ordered to the position but at 1625/18 she reported having searched the position and found nothing. IMPERIAL STAR had been attacked on the previous day.

CLAN MACBEAN escaped.

1900 SS. CLAN MACBEAN (5000 tons) was attacked by s/m and escaped 180 miles North of Cape Finisterre. She had been part of Convoy H.G.3 (Gibraltar to U.K.) unescorted of 27 ships, which lost the YORKSHIRE and CITY OF MANDALAY 17/10 160 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre.

S/ms. attacked

AFRIDI attacked a s/m off St. Abb's Head, with ~~Not yet classified~~. WOOLSTON and a/c 269 Sqn. Probably sunk.

S/ms. reported

North of Shetlands (60°45'N, 1°18'W) 1810. Oil streak (I.C.0241/39)

1524 Off Wick (58°24'N 2°58'W). Periscope sighted by a/c course S (do.)

260 miles W. of Finisterre.

0131 By D/F off Donegal Bay, probable U-boat (IC0239/39)

0410 By D/F off Dublin.

1252 South of Queenstown By D/F

0531 By D/F in Bantry Bay.

1532, 1538 May 1. STORK and TBD's to hunt (IC 0241/39)

The above two (1252 and 0531) were possibly the same s/m.

By D/F. 45° 40' N. 14° 0' W. Reliable.

Heard transmitting by W/T 45° 0' N. 10° 0' W.

By D/F 52° 20' N. 11° 20' W.

49° 19' N. 13° 0' W.

60 miles W. of Scillies.

Reported a German s/m entered Vigo night 17/18 Oct. and was replenished by German SS. WAHEHE (Adty. 1947/23).

1809 46° 10'N 14° W. Position reliable (I.C.0241/39)

0410 53° 25'N 6° W. -- unreliable (I.C.0239/39)

War Diary

18.10.39.
Wednesday.

(6)

FOREIGN WATERS.

MEDITERRANEAN

Convoys. Homeward bound convoys to continue to assemble at Port Said but to sail unescorted. (C. in C. Med. 1418/18) see also 16/10.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

2 s/ms. reported attacking ARUNDEL STAR 600 miles 60° Pernambuco.

War Diary. 18.10.1939,
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Minefield. Admiralty's 0031/12. It is intended to lay this minefield as soon after Sunday, 22nd October, as destroyer escort is available. Cs-in-C., etc., to be informed when skimming sweep has been carried out. On completion of laying, ADVENTURE will proceed to Rosyth. (D.O.D. (H), 1321/18).

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

At sea, covering the A.M.C.'s on Northern Patrol.
REPULSE and 4 destroyers left Rosyth 1245 for rendezvous with C. in C. Home Fleet.

Northern Patrol.

V-A asking for suitable advanced base where A.M.C.'s might replenish and work up, so that organised system of relief could be instituted (VANP 0010/18). Was told for the present to use Liverpool or Clyde (DOD(H) 1330/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

0858. One a/c reported off Norfolk coast.
1100. Group reported off Duncansby Head.
1043. BOREAS was attacked North of Goodwins by seaplane. No damage.
1030. One enemy a/c carried out thorough reconnaissance of Scapa Flow.
1230. Air raid (probably reconnaissance) on Scapa was reported to be taking place.
Wick reported that at 1130, 40 miles west of Scapa, a/c attacked a Dornier E.P.17, but his ammunition was almost exhausted by the time the enemy was within range. Enemy disappeared in cloud.
? time. Air reconnaissance by enemy over the Downs. No result.
1308. A/c reported crossing coast near
and 2205 Lowestoft.

Casualties.

1500. AMAZON holed in collision with British S.S. ARACATACA.

Minefield

6th lay of Folkestone - Gris Nez deep minefield completed.

Prohibited Area.

Prohibited area declared off Tallinn Bight.(N to W 2314)

Convoys.

Vessels carrying aircraft and other valuable Government material to be placed in the safest position in a convoy. (Adty. 1800/18).

Enemy Intelligence.

Movements.

4 German warships with aircraft passed Amelond I. steering W. at 0916. Probably covering passage of German merchant vessels which sailed from Rotterdam during the night. Several reports of suspicious activities by German warships near Indefatigable Bank (somewhere near 53° 42' N. 2° 18' E.) during the last few weeks.

WAR DIARY. 19.10.39
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

GUSTAV ADOLF sunk. GUSTAV ADOLF (Swedish 926 tons) by submarine off Shetlands. Sunk.

GARTBRATTAN escaped. 0633 GARTBRATTAN (1811 tons) SSSS 48° 54' N. 9° 40' W. Submarine chasing us. She rejoined convoy safely.

ROCKPOOL escaped. 1340 ROCKPOOL (1340 tons) SSSS 50° 23' N. 14° 16'W gunned escaped.

CLAN CHISHOLM see 20/10.

Submarines attacked. Aircraft attacked submarine in Western Approaches. Probably slightly damaged (Asst.Ctee.)

1715 WHITEHALL and WESTON attacked contacts 3 miles E.N.E. of St.Abb's Head following a sighting at 1205. Little oil, no bubbles.
1954 KEITH attacked s/m 243° Bishop's Rock 40 miles. Noise of attack caused HALIZONES to think she had been torpedoed. Crew abandoned ship but later re-boarded and proceeded (I.C.0242/39)

Submarines reported.

1209 45° 0'N. 10° 0'W. Position reliable (I.C.0242/39)
48° 45'N. 9° 4' W.
1555 Near Dowsing Lightship. (24 miles E by S). By trawler, on surface (I.C.0242/39)
170 miles S.W. of Cape Clear.
180 miles W. of Ushant.
1200 120 miles N.N.W. of Finisterre by D/F.
1719 52° 20'N 11° 20'W. Position reliable (I.C.0242/39)
1705 3 miles off Flamborough. Periscope seen (source unknown) (I.C.0242/39)

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Submarine reported N.E. Santo Antas, C.Verde.

WAR DIARY. 19.10.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Force X. Force X to remain concentrated to ensure certain superiority over enemy. Possibility of detachment of Force Y to West Indies. (C.in C., S.A., 1805/19/10).

WAR DIARY. 19.10.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. REPULSE and 2 destroyers joined NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, FURIOUS, BELFAST, AURORA and 9 destroyers covering A.M.Cs. on northern patrol.

Humber Force. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH at Rosyth. GLASGOW and NEWCASTLE on patrol off Western Approaches.

Northern Patrol. Between Shetlands and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 3 A.M.Cs.
In Denmark Strait 3 A.M.Cs. and 1 cruiser.
Attack on Iron Duke showed that Scapa was insecure as a base for ships of Northern Patrol. Sullum Voe was then used as base for cruisers while A.M.C's went to Holyde between patrols. (M 01491/39. R of P of Northern Patrol 12-26 Oct 1939)

Rosyth Base. It has been decided that 20 balloons and 16 3.7 inch guns earmarked for Scapa defences should be installed at Rosyth. R.A.F. fighter defence will be as follows:-
No capital ships in harbour - 2 Squadrons
One Capital ship in harbour - 3 "
Main units of fleet in harbour - 4 "

Berehaven Base. Advanced destroyer and air base to be established at Berehaven to enable convoy escorts to be extended (A.C., W.A.1906/19).

GONZENHEIM. German tanker GONZENHEIM (4574 tons) intercepted by RAWALPINDI scuttled herself.
Scuttled.
BISCAYA captured German S.S. BISCAYA (6369 tons) captured by Scotstoun 19/10 and brought to Leith. Lt. Cdr. R.H.A. Clark R.N.R. i/c prize crew (M 01491/39)

MONTE OLIVIA
MONTE PASCOAL. German merchant vessels, sighted passing through Kattegat on last stage of return to Germany from South America.

German minefield. German declared minefield in North Sea enlarged by moving N.W. corner to 56° 30' N. 33° 0'E. (? 17/10 or 18/10)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Chilean destroyer escorted British OR DUNA from Antofogasta to Valparaiso.

20.10.39.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

✓ 0430 S.S.RYANNA sighted conning tower 10 miles South of St.Govan's Lt.V. (20 miles S. of Milford Haven) I.C.0243/39).

2120 S/m sighted on surface course S, off Carradale, Kintyre (I.C.0243/39).

1945 Object resembling s/m close to Haisboro' Lt.V. (I.C.0243/39).

0820 A/C doubtful report of U-boat steering E, 15 miles 196° from Portland Bill.

North Atlantic. 1900 S/m reported sighted south of Santiago Island, Cape Verde Is. proceeding E.

Submarines attacked.

1480 MONTROSE attacked suspected submarine 52° 16' N. 4° 36' W. (20 miles N.W. of Fishguard. No evidence of success.

1635 An aircraft dropped 5 bombs on a submarine 120 miles 060 Peterhead. One bomb appeared to hit. Probably slightly damaged (Asamnt.Cte.)

2015 A/s Trawler LOCH TULLA attacked stationary target with d/c's off Flamborough Head. Doubtful if submarine.

South Atlantic.

S.S. SAINT LINDSAY reported fired at by torpedo and fired at 2 submerged submarines 1040 2° 5' S. 24° 45' W. 1525, 2° 52' S. 24° 55' W. fired at submerged submarine, 1730 another sighted, ship made second attack on submarine by gunfire 2° 52' S. 24° 55' W. believed hit submarine (C.in C. S.A. 1845/25. 1100 26/10 track of torpedo 21° 6' S. 33° 42' W. Believed all reports referred to whales (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/31).

Ships sunk.

SEA VENTURE

SEA VENTURE(2327 tons Captain C.S.Tate) was attacked by submarine 60° 50' N. 0° 15' E. by D.R. (50 miles N.E. of Sullum Voe) and sunk after an action lasting half an hour. Crew saved. (M.013327/39, s.s. SEA VENTURE sunk by enemy action off N. of Shetlands 20 Oct.1939. Report by Master).

CLAN CHISHOLM.

Sunk 1930/19/10.

CLAN CHISHOLM (7256 tons) ~~sunk~~ 150 miles 300° C.Finisterre. Two lifeboats with 41 men reported by BARDLAND (Swedish). 1st Division of destroyers on passage home from Mediterranean were diverted to look for these boats. 20 men lost.

20.10.1939.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Situation. Your 1447/18. At present considered safe to assume warning of three weeks or so bef re situation in Far East could develop into hostilities. Submarine Force will be kept on or near station. "D" class cruisers best that can be spared from present war zones. Accepted that patrols cannot be continuous. (1st S.L., 2146/20, to C. in C., China).

Mediterranean.

Motor Mine-sweepers. Admiralty 1311/11. M.M.S. 1 and 2 complete refitting at Alexandria 30/10. (C. in C., Med., 1511/20).

War Diary. 20.10.1939.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

TARTAR
Movements. Your 1034/12. Message was transmitted from position 58° 12' N., 09° 35' West, 12 hours after parting company from F.A. Aircraft Carriers as ordered by himself. (TARTAR, 1835/20).

WAR DIARY.

20.10.39.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet — NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, FURIOUS, BELFAST, AURORA, 9 destroyers were joined by REPULSE and 2 destroyers and are covering the operations of the A.M.C's in the Iceland area.

Humber Force. — SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. — Between Shetlands and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes and Iceland COLOMBO and 3 A.M.C's on patrol.
In Denmark Strait SHEFFIELD and 3 A.M.C's.

Firth of Forth. Balloon Barrage. Kirkwall. — The balloon barrage is now in position in the Firth of Forth (see 19/10).
Kirkwall harbour is now filled to capacity with neutral shipping for examination.

Air Reconnaissances. — In addition to North Sea and Western Approahces patrols a special patrol was flown to cover the approaches to Port A.

BIANCA captured. — German s.s. BIANCA (1375 tons) was captured by TRANSYLVANIA at 1130 in 67° 29'N. 22° 15' W. Sent in to Kirkwall (arrived 26/10) with prize crew (Lieut.Cdr.D.M.Maclean R.N.R.). She left Rotterdam for Lisbon 22/8, put in to Ferrol and Reykjavik. Spoken by British destroyer 300 miles W. of Hebrides, while flying Finnish colours and disguised as the BIAN of Abo, Finland. Left Reykjavik 2200/18/10 (C.in C.Rosyth 28th Oct.1939 No.0852).

Mining. — Dutch Govt have declared a prohibited area in the Wielingen Channel.
Many reports of floating mines near Whitby and Scarborough.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Distribution of important units (Cdre Cmdg. S.A.D. A & W.I. 1529/20, 1612/23, Adty 2352/20).

Master of a British ship reported that at 1600/10 he sighted in 43° 42' N. 46° 2' W.(360 miles S.E. Cape Race) a ship of 8000 tons armed with 4 inch guns, Italian flag on side and narrow blue and white rings on funnel, apparently the s.s. CAPO ELMO. The real CAPO ELMO has since arrived at Montreal, she has no guns and her charts show she never went near the position.

War Diary

21.10.39.
Saturday

(6)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

GUSTAV ADOLF (Swedish 926t) sunk by s/m off Shetlands. 2 K, 6 sr.

Merchant Ships Attacked.

1145 150° Flamborough Head 15 miles SS. ORSA (1478t) mined (IC 0245/39)

0200 CAPITAINE EDMUND LABORIE (French) reported torpedoed (?mined) near Inner Dowsing Lt. V. (IC 0244/39)

0820 DEODATA (Norwegian Tanker, 3295t) mined, 11 miles 254° ~~near~~ Inner Dowsing Lt. V. (IC 0244/39). 6 crew saved. 2 explosions no attack observed. Bound for Barrow from Rumania. (N.I.D. 4620/39)
(Norwegian ships sunk by German action during September/October)

s/m's reported

1800 Trawler NORTHWARD HO sighted s/m on surface 3 miles SE Montrose (IC 0245/39)

1030 Trawler RIVIERE reported s/m 10 miles NE Butt of Lewis. Probably H.34. (IC 0244/39)

1600 Periscope reported course NW in Staffin Bay Skye. (IC 0244/39)

night 20/21 SS. COOMBE DINGLE reported s/m on surface near Skerries, Holyhead (IC 0244/39)

1630 ~~1701~~ Trawler NORTHERN ROVER sighted s/m 5 miles north of Fair I. (~~IC 0244/39~~) (MOI 4591/39)

1600 One U-B. proceeding south reported in Little Belt.

(Atlantic) 1515 French T.B.D. FORBIN sighted s/m 37° 47'N 10° 20'W (SW of Lisbon) s/m dived (IC 0244/39)

s/m's attacked

1350 F.B. "L.5806" estimate 1 hit on s/m 50° 23'N 10° 43'W (IC 0244/39) Believed slightly damaged (Assest. C'tee.)

1730 JASON dropped d/c's on s/m 105° South Rock Light V. 2 miles (off Belfast) (IC 0244/39)

1920 VALOROUS dropped d/c's on s/m 6-7 miles East of Scarborough. Apparently unsuccessful. (IC 0244/39)

0125 ARDENT 70° 26 miles Start Pt. Large patch of oil with strong shale smell. (I.C. 0243/39)

War Diary. 21.10.1939,
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Movement of Destroyers.	Admiralty 1950/16, cancelled by Admiralty 1836/17. Local reaction to proposed movement of Australian destroyer first to Singapore, then to Mediterranean. (First Naval Member, Melbourne, 2345/21).

authorities and sailed for Hamburg, being escorted outside Norwegian territorial waters by Norwegian warships. Patrols to be amended to find her. (H.Q.C.C. 1915/23).

GLORIA captured.

GLORIA (German 5896 t.) intercepted by SHEFFIELD. Taken to Kirkwall 25/10. Prize crew Sub. Lieut. S. Phillips R. N. and 10 men. (M.014591/39. Sub. Lieut. Phillips was given accelerated promotion. Three of GLORIA's crew escaped in a lifeboat and were brought into Methil 6½ days later. (M.014627/39. German S.S. GLORIA - Prize Officer's Report).

POSEIDON captured sunk.

POSEIDON (German 5864 tons) intercepted in bad weather by SCOTSTOUN. German crew abandoned ship in of Iceland after being escorted for 29 hours. SCOTSTOUN lost her in thick snow, and she was picked up early 25/10 by TRANSYLVANIA who found her unable to steam and took her in tow. Tow parted, gale sprang up and TRANSYLVANIA had to sink her 27/10. (M.015591/39).

HOME COMMANDS

Northern Patrol — DIOMEDE sailed at daylight for area between Shetlands and Faroes.

Kirknaes — Naval Control Service Staff to be withdrawn from Kirknaes (Adty. 1257/21)

Kirkwall congestion — Congestion at Kirkwall. (VANP 1850/21)

Balloon Barrage Firth of Forth — Balloon barrage now in position in Firth of Forth area.

Air Raids on CAIRO — CAIRO was attacked by a Heinkel III bomber off Bridlington. No damage or casualties. (~~Cairo~~CAIRO 0001/22)

on Convoy FN24 — Two air attacks were made on the Thames to Firth of Forth convoy. No damage. (Capt D4.1931/23) at least four a/c's were shot down by fighters. (IC.0244/39). Nav claimed that enemy lost 7 a/c's out of 12 (I.C.0250/39)

on 5th M.S. Flotilla — 5th Minesweeping Flotilla engaged enemy reconnaissance and bomber a/c's about 40 miles E.N.E of Spurn Point. One bomb dropped, no damage or casualties. Damage to enemy a/c's (S.O.5th M.S. Flotilla 1800/22)
A southbound convoy was shadowed during the forenoon off the Yorkshire coast.
A trawler in 53° 58'N, 2° 30'E reported 10 German a/c's steering a westerly course at 1410. HALCYON (5th M.S.F.) reported 9 a/c's steering 270° at 1440.
An enemy seaplane force landed 12 miles SE of Spurn Head. A large unknown a/c was sighted flying high over Lerwick at 0755.
At 0900 a German seaplane closed a drifter in position 9 miles 020° Smiths Knoll Buoy. Disappeared to S.W.
At 1040 an unidentified a/c passed over Scapa Flow in a north-westerly direction.
A trawler reports that at 1302 she sighted a capsized a/c in 55° 20'N 2° 17'E.
At 1250 an enemy a/c was sighted flying in direction of North Ronaldshay.

Air Reconnaissances — In addition to normal reconnaissances:-
(a) Continuous patrol from Wick to Faroes starting at dawn.
(b) Anti-s/m patrol off Port A.
(c) Continuous patrol in Fair Island Channel.
(d) Special patrol of 6 Ansons to cover minesweeping operation east of Humber (see below.)

Special minesweeping operations — 5th Minesweeping Flotilla from Harwich commenced an exploratory sweep westward from position 60 miles E of Humber at 0700, Air cover see (d) above. Escorts of convoys FN24 and 25 on East coast to support if possible should 5th M.S.Flotilla be attacked by surface craft or s/m's.

CITY OF FLINT — Called at Tromsoe for water, landed crew of STONEGATE owing to intervention of Norwegian

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

M.V's. attacked

0400 WHITEMANTLE (1692t) Tyne-London not in convoy mined 15 miles Flamborough Head 150°

2301 BARON FORBES attacked (?sunk) 42° 7'N 9°18'W

s/m's reported

0933 170° Lizard 10 miles SS. ZEALANDIC sighted periscope (IC 0245/39)

1210 170° Nab Tower 5 miles M/S trawler HORNBEAM sighted periscope course E. (IC 0245/39)

War Diary. 22.10.1939, Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.
~~North-Atlantic~~.

DEUTSCHLAND. Appears that pocket battleship reported to eastward of Newfoundland (see s.s. LORENTZ W. HANSEN sunk) is the DEUTSCHLAND and is therefore probably outward bound. REPULSE and FURIOUS, after fuelling and embarking stores, to proceed to position 50 N., 25 W., subsequently proceed Halifax to fuel. HOOD to be retained Home Fleet in case DEUTSCHLAND returns home after her activities in the West Atlantic. (D.O.D. (F), 0058/22).

French Co-operation. Most helpful if Force De Raid from Brest could give protection to convoy KJ3 in position 47°40' N., 25° 00' W. at 0001/22 B.S.T. until it reaches submarine area. (C.N.S., 2239/21, to B.N.L.O., Marceau).

East Indies.

Dispositions. Intended dispositions on East Indies Station, including Forces I. and J. (which remain unchanged). (C. in C., E.I., 1842Z/24).

Mediterranean.

Relations With Turkey. Ambassador Ankara's telegram 646 of 22/10. Consider last paragraph, that Turkish authorities should regard their naval effort, as of considerable importance, and that they should be asked to accept either Naval Mission, similar to Military Mission, or at least an extra officer attached briefly to assist Naval Attache in continuing conversations already in progress. (C. in C., Med., 1701/23).

HOME COMMANDS
(continued)

Enemy Intelligence — 2222 Two unidentified enemy units possibly connected with raiding activities were located in approx. 60° 30'N 25° 0'W.

Mines — Mines have been laid off the Inner Dowsing Lt. V. (IC 0244/39)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Raider — Unknown British ship reported being gunned by raider about 180 miles off the coast of South-west Africa (16° S (or probably 26° S) 4° 3'E. (Adty. 1841/8)

America ~~Atlantic~~ & West Indies

Search for DEUTSCHLAND — YORK left Halifax 1230 to cover Halifax convoy escorted by EMERALD and to endeavour to locate the DEUTSCHLAND.
ENTERPRISE patrolling between Nova Scotia and Nantucket.
Battleships being used to escort convoys.

DEUTSCHLAND — Activities of the DEUTSCHLAND to date:- (IC 0245/39)

5/10	British SS. STONEGATE sunk by gunfire 31° 10'N 54° 0'W
12/10	Norwegian SS. JACOB CHRISTENSEN stopped 48° 50'N 45° 9'W
1000/14/10	Norwegian SS. LORENTZ W. HANSEN sunk by gunfire and torpedo 49° 5'N 43° 44'W
2300/14/10	Norwegian SS. KONGSDAL stopped and crew of LORENTZ W. HANSEN transferred 48° 17'N 43° 39'W
15/10	U.S.A. SS. CITY OF FLINT stopped and crew of STONEGATE transferred 45° 9'N 43° 22'W (? 45°10'N 43°35' W)

China

4 s/m's to be detached from 4th Flotilla for service on East Indies Station (Adty. 1639/22)
(sailed 23/10)

Mediterranean.

Proposed to use MERSIN or ALITAGHA anchorage to avoid inconvenience to neutrals. (C.in.C., Med., 0824/22).

War Diary. 22.10.1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet Bases. Admty.'s 1815. Use of Scapa, Port A, and Clyde. FURIOUS and REPULSE being sailed for Clyde to-morrow to enable FURIOUS to complete with necessary personnel and stores. (C. in C., H.F., 2350/22).

Possible U-boat Wrecks. My 2238/16 and 1950/18. Obstructions located by minesweepers. Request equipment and divers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1440/22).

War Diary

22.10.39.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. The Home Fleet arrived at Port A 0800 from covering the operations of the A.M.C.s in the Iceland area.

Humber Force. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. 2 cruisers between Shetlands and Faroes
4 " " Faroes " Iceland
1 " and 2 A.M.C.s in Denmark Strait.

Need for A.M.C.s V.A. Northern Patrol pointed out the unsuitability of the "C" and "D" class cruisers for the work of the Patrol in winter and pressed for early arrival of more A.M.C.s
(V.A.N.P. 1210/22. C.in C. H.F. 1702/9.
Additional A.M.C.s to be sent (Adty.1757/23)
Hastening of (Adty. 1339/24))

Allocation of A.M.C.s Some 50 A.M.C.s are being fitted out. Allocation:- 22 to C.in C. Home Fleet for the Northern Patrol, 10 to C.in C. South Atlantic for escort duty with the Sierra Leone convoys etc., 4 to C.in C. A. and W.I. for escort duty with the Halifax convoys etc., 3 to C.in C. East Indies, and 3 to China; remainder unallocated. See Special Secret Branch Acquaints Nos. 233, 264.

Air Reconnaissances. Normal air patrols, including anti-S/M patrol off Port A.
Two Sunderlands left Pembroke at dawn for Invergordon; to patrol between Faroes and Iceland to warn Northern Patrol of enemy surface vessels which have been reported by W/T D/F 220 miles south of Iceland at 2222/22.

Enemy Air Reconnaissance of East Coast. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft off East Coast; one Dornier shot down by fighter from 20,000 ft. off St. Abbs Head.

Air Attack on Convoy. Unsuccessful attack on Methil to Orfordness convoy. Attackers driven off by escort vessels assisted by R.A.F. Enemy lost 4 A/c.s. No R.A.F. or convoy casualties. No damage to convoy.

War Diary

23.10.39.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Cont.)

S/Ms. Reported.

0003 S.S. BARON FORBES sighted S/M 20 miles S.S.W. C. Finisterre.
0613 by reliable D/F fix. 53° 38' N. 3° 30'E
1423 by aircraft 36 miles south of Portland
1510 observer corps reported S/M off Whitby.
Escort of convoy F.N.25 (Thames to Firth of Forth) investigated without result.
U-boat seen on surface for 3 or 4 minutes by Trinity House vessel SATELLITE (? off Meragissey) (C. in C. W.A 1917/23, 1612/24)

(C.in C.W.A.0905/23)

S/Ms. Attacked

0650 by GALLANT 90° Lizard. Result unknown
1445 A/C reported S/M 20 miles south of Portland. KANDAHAR and 2 destroyers from Portsmouth ordered to hunt. Result unknown.
1818 S/M reported 7 miles south of Portland. 4 destroyers sent to hunt.

Ships sunk.

ALBANIA (Swedish 1241 t) 4 miles N.W. Humber lt.V. by mine.
21K, 19 saved by CHANNEL FISHER

War Diary. 23.10.39.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Enemy Intelligence. Two D/F bearings at 1943 and 2070 north of Scotland indicated enemy surface ships in northern waters.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders Force H. South Atlantic.
Raider activity recommenced in the South Atlantic (Adty. 1952/23) Orders for Force H. (C.in C. S.A. 1250/23) (Force H. see Adty. 1/409/5.)

C.C. Base Dardanelles. Mediterranean.
Proposals for Contraband Control base inside the Dardanelles (at Khelia Liman opposite Nagara) (Adty. 1251/23, C.in C. Med. 2012/23)

Tightening up C.C. Proposals by C. in C. for tightening up contraband control (C. in C. Med. 1150/23)

Gunboats. China.
Objections of C. in C. to withdrawal of 3 British gunboats above Hankow (C. in C. China 1241/23)

Submarines. (Adty. 1639/22 - see 22nd). Submarines to be sent to Colombo. When on passage, one requested to visit unfrequented anchorage in Nicobar Islands. (C.in C. East Indies, 1905/23)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on M.V.s. 0830 Swedish ship ALBANIA (1241 t.) sunk by mine 6 miles N.E. of Withernsea.
0905 S.S. BRAMHILL sunk 3 miles N.W. Humber Lt.V. ? mine or torpedo.

ACASTA 0828 Missed by torpedo from s/m. 49°48'N, 5°22'W.

War Diary. 23.10.1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Kirkwall Defences. Although we have necessarily been considering principally the main fleet base, the contraband control base at Kirkwall, which cannot be moved, must be very seriously considered. Practically nothing to stop a submarine entering Kirkwall and torpedoing as many ships as she has torpedoes. Consider it is essential to provide A/S patrol craft at Kirkwall now. (C. in C., H.F., 1047/23, by hand, received 1055/24).

Home ~~Fleet Bases~~. Fleet Bases. Admty. 1711/14, 2345/17, 2220/18 and 0059/21, Review of Home Fleet objectives, and suggestions for bases and anchorages. Concur as regards dummy ships at Rosyth. (C. in C., H.F., 1043/23, by hand, received 1055/24).

War Diary. 23.10.39
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. Search for CITY OF FLINT.

C.in C. left Port A. 1830 with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 6 destroyers for operations off Lofoten Is. (Search for CITY OF FLINT). JERVIS and JERSEY from A/S patrol off Muckle Flugga are on passage to Marsten to intercept CITY OF FLINT believed to be proceeding from Tromso to Germany (See 28/10)
FURIOUS and REPULSE with 4 destroyers left Port A for Clyde to collect essential stores and personnel (FURIOUS and REPULSE were to form part of the force covering the Atlantic convoy routes, based on Halifax. (see 26/10).
CURLEW and 4 destroyers proceeding from Port A. to Scapa. Destroyers will be available for A/S duties until required to take over Bergen convoy off Shetland.
EDINBURGH left Rosyth to rendezvous with Commodore D. in AURORA 20 miles N. of Muckle Flugga, Shetland at 1200/24.
Commodore D. and 4 destroyers proceeded from Port A to rendezvous with EDINBURGH when force will proceed in company to Norwegian coast to escort the Narvik Convoy (see 26/10).

Northern Patrol.

1 cruiser between Shetlands and Faroes
4 " " Faroes " Iceland
1 " and 2 A.M.C.s in Denmark Strait.

Defence of Port A.

Two of the additional fighter squadrons placed for the defence of the Fleet in Port A. are being withdrawn.

Air Reconnaissances.

2 Sunderlands to carry out reconnaissance between Faroes and Iceland to-day so as to endeavour to warn Northern Patrol should enemy surface vessels be approaching them (Adty. 0233/23.) This operation cancelled (Adty. 0950/23).

Convoys.

Sailing of O.G.4 (U.K. to Gibraltar) postponed for 24 hours (A.C.W.A. 2316/23)
Sailing of O.A.24 G.(Thames for Western Approaches O.B. 24 G. (Liverpool to Western Approaches) postponed for 24 hours owing to fog in Downs area (W.A C.in C. 1842/23).
O.N. (Methil to Bergen) and H.N. (Bergen to Methil) see 4/11.
F.N. (Thames to Firth of Forth) and F.S. (Firth of Forth to Thames). Atlantic cruisers to be available to and from Sunk Head buoy (C.in C. Rosyth 1116/23)
Anti-aircraft cruisers for F.N. see C. in C. Rosyth 1110/23.

War Diary. 24. 10. 1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

Attack on S/M. M. 013818/39. Subject, H.M.S. PUFFIN and H.M. trawler CAYTON WYKE, Report of attack on U-Boat, 24. 10. 1939, dated 6.11.1939.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (contd.)

Enemy S/Ms attacked.

1640 By KEPPEL 36° 3' N. 7° 33' W. No visible results.

2130 GURKHA with F.N. convoy attacked contact 68° Orfordness 13 miles.

1410 and 1645 By PUFFIN and CAYTON WYKE 1 mile south of S/M on Goodwins. Probably responsible for subsequent stranding of U.16 on Goodwins. M.013818/39 H.M.S.PUFFIN and H.M.Trawler Cayton Wyke - Report of attack on U-boat 24.10.39.

1005 2 French aircraft attacked submarine West of Gibraltar. Exact position and result not known. (I.C.0248/39).

1815 by WATCHMAN 36° 3' N. 7° 18' W. No definite result (I.C. 0248/39).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

M.V's. attacked. A U-boat torpedoed the following British ships about 80 miles west of Gibraltar. 4 destroyers and aircraft from Gibraltar and Casablanca are hunting. KEPPEL attacked a good contact, no further contact obtained after attack.

MENIN RIDGE sunk. 0700 S.S. MENIN RIDGE (2474 t.) 90 miles W. Gibraltar. 22 dead.

LEDBURY sunk. 0858 S.S. LEDBURY (3528 t.) 100 miles W. Gibraltar.

TAFNA sunk. 1125 S.S. TAFNA (4413 t.) 35° 54' N. 7° 23' W. (84 miles W. of Gibraltar).

KONSTANTINOS HADJIPATEROS sunk. 0900 S.S. KONSTANTINOS HADJIPATEROS (Greek 6000 t) was mined 2 miles SE of Inner Dowsing Lt.V. 27 saved 4 lost. (M.016778/39. List of Greek vessels sunk by German action).

None of the above was in convoy.

HAZLESIDE sunk. 1352 S.S.HAZLESIDE (4646 t.) sunk without warning by submarine SE of Fastnet, 12 killed, 22 injured.

* 1600 67° 6' N. 12° 3' E. 1 fairly large submarine and 1 or 2 unarmed trawlers. (I.C.0251/39).

Enemy submarines reported.

2147 unreliable fix of enemy unit in 48°50' N. 6° 0'. W. (Adty. 2216/24) further bearings gave 49° 30' N. 4° 45' W. (Adty.2347/24).

? time 50° 30' N. 12° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1321/24, 0831/25)

0845 55 miles W. Skaw.

2159 49° 30' N. 4° 45' W. by D/F bearings. ACASTA and ARDENT searching.

? time by aircraft in position DVUM 0146 (Duty U of 224 Sqn 1100/24)

1320 1320 B/224 sighted submarine on surface in position DVUM 0003 but did not attack as submarine lost in snow and rain storm (Donibristle AC HG 1900/24)
These two are identical (C.in C.Rosyth 1953/24).

North Atlantic. Fishermen sold fish to U-boat off Barbate, 5½ miles E. C. Trafalgar.

? time 69° 35' N. 19° E. (near Tromso) Unconfirmed.

South Atlantic. 1230 500 miles S.E. of St. Helena by DANAE escorting ATHLONE CASTLE from St. Helena to Cape Town. Sighted 1130 by DANAE 21° 40' S. 1° 0' E.

War Diary.

24.10.1939,
Tuesday.

Forces K and X.	Further to my 1043/24. French suggest Force K be sent West Indies, Force X remaining based on Dakar. At same time it is understood that enemy must be pursued regardless of zones. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1136/24).

War Diary. 24. 10.1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Polish Submarines. Future employment of Polish submarines WILK and ORZEL, suggestion for joining 2nd Submarine Flotilla. (R.A.(S), 1821/24). Urgency of question appreciated. (D.N.I., 1902/25).

Home Fleet. Admiralty 1711/14, 2345/17, 2220/18 and 0059/21. Appreciation of Home Fleet objectives. For all these, Scapa strategically better situated than Rosyth. Consider it should be main fleet base, suggestions for blocking, camouflage, etc. I do not consider HOOD should be sent away. As regards an anchorage until Scapa is ready, prefer Port A. Reasons given. Concur as regards dummy ships at Rosyth. (C. in C., H.F., 1043/23), by hand, received 1055/24).

War Diary. 24.10.39
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet. At sea proceeding towards Lofoten Is. (see 23/10). REPULSE and FURIOUS in Clyde. AURORA, EDINBURGH, and 4 destroyers proceeding to rendezvous with Narvik convoy (see 26/10)

Northern Patrol. SOUTHAMPTON proceeding to relieve SHEFFIELD in Denmark Strait.
2 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes.
4 " " Faroes and Iceland
1 cruiser and 2 A.M.C's in Denmark Strait.

POSEIDON SCOTSTOUN (A.M.C) is sending in German prize POSEIDON (see 25/10)

BIANCA TRANSYLVANIA is sending in German prize BIANCA (1400t)

Air Reconnaissance. In addition to normal patrols, the following special patrols are:- (a) A/S escort to EDINBURGH proceeding to Shetlands.
(b) 5 aircraft to close gap between continuous patrol line and Shetland air patrol to locate CITY OF FLINT.

Convoys. All East Coast convoys now have an R.A.F. liaison officer provided by Fighter Command. Duties (H.Q. Fighter Cmd.0856/24)

French Patrols West of Gib. French asked to allow more of their forces to operate in the area west of Gibraltar, on account of enemy S/M activity there. (Admiralty 2248/24)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Importance of Freetown. South Atlantic.
Hospital ship asked for at Freetown in view of increasing number of large ships being based there. (C. in C. S.A.0826/24)
Freetown now a major naval base and an important convoy assembly port. Defence of Freetown. (C. in C.SA. 2038/24)
See also 26/10 and 28/10.

Masireh. East Indies.
British ships to be withdrawn from Masireh in view of improved relations with Italy (C.in C. E10132/24 Adty. 1251/25)

War Diary.

25/10/39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Enemy S/M's reported.

2100 39° 30' N. 9° 20'W. (near Burlington Islands, coast of Portugal) (Admiralty 2127/25, 0032/27, Lisbon 1825/26)
1246 By D/F 216° St. Alban's Head.
1600 1 mile E. Brora 2 miles S. Dalchalm.
1650 9 miles N.E. Orme's Head, course E. by N. Sighted by steamer (I.C.0250/39)
? time in South Bay, Scarborough. Doubtful
1738 3 miles off Whitby.

1040 s/m bearing 270° one mile course 360° my position QSUM 5218 (A/C 233 Sqn. Duty M 1040/25)

Enemy s/m's attacked.

0740 by MASHONA 55° 4'N 1° 20'W. No apparent result. (I.C. 0250/39)

1400 - 1630-1700 by trawler CAYTON WYKE off Goodwins (? date) (I.C. 0248/39)

1040 by A/C 57° 52'N 3° 18'E. 5 bombs dropped. U-boat steering N. (I.C. 0248/39)

2340 by ANTELOPE, VISCOUNT 90° Beachy Hd. 17 miles. 2 attacks (I.C. 0248/39)

North Atlantic.

1705 s/m reported between 39° and 41°, about 10° W, pos'n. approx. (I.C. 0248/39)

Attacks (continued)

U-16 destroyed. See Enemy Intelligence. She is believed to have been damaged by PUFFIN and CAYTON WYKE (see above)

War Diary. 25.10.1939,
Wednesday.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

U-Boat Ashore on Goodwins. (U.16).

Confirmed that object on Goodw n Sands is a submarine (V.A.,Dover, 0925/25). Position, conning tower just awash (V.A., Dover, 1007/25). S/M attacked by A/S trawler CAYTON WYKE between 1630 and 1710 yesterday, and by PUFFIN. Probability S/M was damaged and drifted on to Goodwins (V.A., Dover, 1302/25). Weather too bad to go alongside. Salvage preparations (V.A., Dover, 25/10).

Body of a German officer picked up this afternoon off Folkestone by M/S trawler ST. MELANITE. Documents indicate belonged to U.16, which is considered to be the number of the S/M ashore on Goodwins. (V.A., Dover, 1940/3/11).

War Diary. 25.10.39. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Air Reconnaissance. Normal patrols over North Sea and Western Approaches Special moonlight A/S patrol between Montrose and Kinnaird's Head.

Minelaying. First section of deep minefield off Flamborough Head completed.

Enemy Intelligence.

0311 D/F bearing indicated that an enemy surface ship might be to N.N.E. of Shetlands (Adty. 0311/25). No reliable fix. could be obtained.

S/M's track. Track used by U-Boats in daylight on surface between Shetlands and Butt of Lewis.(Adty. 1548/25).

M/Vs. Possibility that German merchant ships now in North Russian ports may attempt to leave (Adty. 1844/25).

S/M. ashore on Goodwins. a.m./25 an explosion was heard and a S/m. sighted ashore on the Goodwins. U-16 ~~[illegible]~~ (250 t.) She is practically destroyed before the conning tower.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FORCE X, Sweep.

Force X consisting of battleship STRASBOURG, 2 French cruisers, destroyers and H.M.S. HERMES carried out sweep to south-westward, returning to Dakar p.m./29/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1131/25).

A.&W.I. **Port Stanley.** Necessity for anti-S/M. protection of Port Stanley and change in defence forces and methods if S/ms allowed to use Argentine, Uruguay and Chile ports as believed they will be. (Cdre. C.mdg. S.A. Div. A. and W.I. 1836/24).

America and West Indies.

Arrangements for early formation of Force F. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 1129/25)

War Diary. 25.10.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. Off Lofoten Island (vide 23/10 and 27/10).

Northern Patrol. 2 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes
4 " " Faroes " Iceland
1 cruiser and 2 A.M.Cs. in Denmark Strait.
SOUTHAMPTON proceeding to relieve SHEFFIELD in Denmark Strait.

POSEIDON TRANSYLVANIA towing POSEIDON to Reykjavik. SHEFFIELD at present in company will return to Sullum Voe when TRANSYLVANIA reaches territorial waters; TRANSYLVANIA returning to patrol.

(The German merchant ship POSEIDON (5800 t.) damaged off north coast of Iceland 67° 31'N. 22° 40'W. H.M.S. TRANSYLVANIA standing by. (TRANSYLVANIA 0805/25) To be taken to Reykjavik (Adty. 1733/25) or sunk (VANP 1235/25))

PHOEBUS PUNJABI brining in PHOEBUS (tanker 8863 t.) flying Panamanian flag. She was allowed to proceed immediately.

GLORIA The German merchant ship GLORIA arrived at Kirkwall under armed guard (C.C.S.O. KIRKWALL 1521/25)

BISCAYA BISCAYA (German tanker, 6369 tons) captured by SCOTSTOUN (0 19/10) arrived at Leith under armed guard. Positions for last 10 days before capture see VANP 1222/8.

CASUALTIES. FURY damage to fo'c'sle by rough sea.
COVENTRY at Immingham defects to steering engine needing 10 days for repair.

Western Approaches. A/S forces: French help. Admiralty intends to maintain at Gibraltar A/S forces sufficient to make entrance into the Mediterranean difficult. At present handicapped by having also to perform Contraband Control duties. French asked to reinforce. (Adty.1806/25)

See also 24/10

Sailings of M.Vs. system. Sailings of groups of fast unarmed vessels is to be abandoned. In future all vessels of 15 knots and over are to be sailed and routed independently. (Adty. 1657/25).

War Diary. 26.10.1939.
Thursday.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

U.14 Reported Destroyed. French report that at about 2100/26 big explosion heard west of Grisnez. A.M.27th a Davis escape apparatus found by Sangatte. Bodies of a Lieutenant Commander and a sailor of U.14 picked up at 1030 one point five miles south of Colbart. At noon, bodies of German sailors found 9 miles 280 deg. from Alprecht. (S.N.L.O., Marceau, 1626/27).
My 1736/26. French report of bodies wearing escape apparatus marked U.14 picked up by patrol vessels. Consider evidence strengthens the belief that another submarine, probably U.14, sunk in Folkestone-Grisnez minefield, and that escapes have been extending over about 20 hours commencing 0600/26.
(V.A., Dover, 1845/27).

Recovery of bodies with apparatus marked U.14,
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1049/4/11, 1550/4),
(V.A., Dover, 2130/4).

War Diary. 26.10.39

Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Enemy s/m's reported.

0720 ? periscope ½ mile Mouse Lt. V.
0930 3 U-Boats reported off Spodsbjerg (Great Belt) Steering N.
course N. (Admiralty 1836/26)
0909 By shore observers off I. of Man.
1030 57° 43' N. 1° 48' W. (6 miles E. Kinnaird Head) by steam trawler Carieda.
1600 By shore observers off Dornoch Firth.
1700 By shore observers off Loch Indail, Islay.
1700 S/m of 740 ton class sighted 52° 30' N. 4° 20' E. course South. (Admty. 1433/27).
1600 218° Helmsdale 8 miles.
1700 Coastguard reported s/m in Loch Indail, Islay.
0924 One U-boat approximately off C. Finisterre is probably returning home northabout. There are indications that one U-Boat outward bound northabout may reach Western Approaches 28/10 and another 29/10. (Admiralty 1219/26)

U-boats attacked.

0820 by a/c 36° 10' N. 7° 0' W.
No results. Presence of U-boat confirmed in later signal (I.C. 0250/39)

(6)

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Fishing. Additional areas where fishing is permitted. (Admiralty 1542/26).

German merchant ships. Large German cargo ships, some in ballast, have passed through the Sound proceeding south from northern ports, principally Murmansk during the past 3 weeks (N.A. Copenhagen 1815/26.)

SOPHIE BUSSE. German trawler 215 tons, at Grimsby. Was later siezed in Prize.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contraband control of Italian ships (Admiralty 2202/26. 1359/27)

C.C. - Italian ships.

South Atlantic. MAIDSTONE to proceed to Freetown as S/M depot ship. (Admiralty 1954/26) (cf. 24/10) C. in C. S.A. is asking for more s/m's. None available. (Admiralty 1958/26) See also 20/10, 24/10.

Freetown.

America and West Indies. S/M reported off Martinique.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

Off Lofoten Island (Vice 23/10)
NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 5 destroyers covering Narvik convoy (see below)

Positions of our s/m's.

Positions of our s/m's at 0700 (Admiralty 2017/25)
2 operating off S.W. coast of Norway.
2 " in Skagerrak.
1 " off Horns Reef.
1 on patrol West of Hebrides.

8th S.F.

Composition of 8th S/M Flotilla (see R.A.(S) 1232/26.)

Convoys strengthening of cover.

Narvik convoy.

Narvik convoy escorted by EDINBURGH, AURORA and 4 destroyers sailed from Narvik 0130. Reports indicate that sailing may be known to Germany (Adty. 1851/26) strengthening of convoy escort and other measures (C. in C.H.F.1146/27)

Atlantic convoys.
REPULSE
HOOD
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

Owing to reports of attacks on trade by German pocket battleships the REPULSE and HOOD (left Clyde 0430) proceeded to cover the Atlantic convoy routes, to be based on Halifax. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are already on this service, based on Freetown (Cf.5/11) Foreign Stations).

Northern Patrol.

2 cruiser between Orkneys and Faroes.
3 " " Faroes and Iceland.
1 cruiser and 1 AMC in Denmark Strait.
SHEFFIELD returning to Sullum Voe.

A/S boats.

Motor A/S boats to be based in Clyde not Firth of Forth (Admiralty 1913/26)

Air Reconnaissance.

Today the patrol to Oberstad was extended 60 miles northwards parallel to the Norwegian coast.

Routes for neutral ships.

Advice and routing instructions if asked for may be given to masters of all neutral vessels. Admiralty accepts no liability in respect of such vessels. (Admiralty 1616/26)

27.10.39
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's Sighted.

0810 ? 28/10 Newton 1½ miles 90°
p~~a~~m. ? time Near Ardmore Point, C/rinan (Belfast area) position doubtful.
2000/miles St. Abb's Head.
2200 49° 50' N. 10° 30' W.

0800 Danish ship VIBEKEMERSK sighted s/m 57° 40' N. 8° 0' E. (Newcastle 1652/30)
1300 and 1900 trawler sighted s/m disguised as fishing vessel 60 miles N. by E. Tyne.
1448 reliable D/F fix of unknown enemy unit 54° 25' N. 4° 45' E. (Admiralty 1507/27)
1630 8 miles N. Humber (Mablethorpe)

M.V.'s attacked.

S.S. BRONTE (2346t) torpedoed 251° V D R Y 34
Sunk. (? torpedoed 26/10)

War Diary. 27.10.39
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

C.C. of Italian Ships.

Mediterranean.

Italian ships to call at Malta or Haifa for contraband control. (Admiralty 1359/27 C. in C. Med. 1218/28) Delays caused to Italian ships (Admiralty 1849/4) Refusal of Italians to accept voluntary control within Suez Canal limits. (Ambassador Rome 0045/21). Arrangements in consequence C. in C. Med 0343/5)

America and West Indies.

EMMY FRIEDRICH.

CARADOC arrived at Bermuda with crew of German ship EMMY FRIEDRICH which scuttled herself to avoid capture.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

S/M's reported.

1300 s/m reported 7 miles south of of 4° N. 6° 45' E. (South of Santiago C. Verde Island (S.O.(I) Gib. 2200/30) s/m reported off Guadeloupe.

Schooner reported sighting s/m between Penedo and Pernambuco (local Press report).

North Atlantic.

CONDOR.

Flying boat CONDOR belonging to Iberia Air Service manned by German personnel is reported to be making daily reconnaissance flights from Las Palmas (I.C. 0850/39)

War Diary. 27.10.1939,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Main Fleet Bases. Admiralty have reviewed arguments affecting choice of main fleet base in home waters. Scapa's main geographical advantage not so marked in present war. Difficult to defend. Psychological barrier against submarine penetration has gone. Guns and lights cannot be well placed. Main base should be one in fleet ships can rest after period at sea, and defences must therefore make attack unprofitable. Choice of another base lies between Scapa, Port A and the Clyde. Advantage of Clyde if Home Fleet is reinforced so that part of it can always keep the sea. Therefore decided -- Home Fleet to be reinforced by WARSPITE and later VALIANT to enable it to work in two watches, one nprmally at sea.
Clyde to be made into main base as soon as possible.
Use of Port A to be discontinued.
Rosyth to remain main operational base on East Coast.
Scapa to remain fuelling base for destroyers and other light craft and in emergency for capital ships.
Suggestions for Fleet anchorage and points to be discussed with Admiralty representatives on return to harbour. (1st S.L., 0300/27, to C. in C., H.F.)

This further change of policy, with which I do not agree, cannot be adequately discussed by signal whilst I am at sea. Policy necessitates a strong Northern Patrol which does not exist, and also maintaining a covering force continuously at sea which will have to have an adequate screen. Delays in working from Clyde. As regards Clyde Boom, can I be assured that a U-boat cannot get under nets. Concur in suggested berthing. (C. in C., H.F., 1803/27).

Details of berthing, Clyde. (N.O.I.C.,Clyde, 2130/27).

MEDITERRANEAN.

WARSPITE Recalled. Admiralty 0300/27. Owing to necessity of making Clyde the main fleet base, for some time, necessary to have at least four capital ships with long range guns in home waters. This will necessitate WARSPITE joining Home Fleet. Desired you should hoist your flag at Malta on shore. Regret necessity to take away Fleet Flagship. (C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 0301/27).

War Diary. 27.10.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. As 26/10.

Northern Patrol Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 1 cruiser
3 cruisers proceeding to this area.
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser and 2 A.M.C's.

Strengthening of East Coast defence. Convoys on the East Coast to be escorted by escort vessels and covered by day in Humber area by A/A cruisers and destroyers. Small patrols of destroyers to be established in areas of Outer Dowsing and Galloper primarily for A/S work. Remaining destroyers should be held ready as striking force but given as much rest as possible. (Adty. 1447/28
Further arrangements see C. in C. Rosyth 1644/29.
The following movements were ordered :-
EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD to Rosyth.
NEWCASTLE and GLASGOW (now at home port) sail for Rosyth 31/10. 16 destroyers to Humber (to include 5 from Home Fleet and 6 "J" and 4 Tribals already on East Coast).
17 destroyers to Harwich (6 from Dover, 3, Portsmouth, 8 from Western Approaches.)
S/M patrol of 9 s/m's to westward of German minefield.
28/10 UNDINE ordered to reconnoitre to North of line 245° from Heligoland.

Minelaying Operations off Humber. This operation was completed 2300 and ADVENTURE returned to Humber.

Air Reconnaissances. Normal air patrols over North Sea and Western Approaches, In addition:-
(a) Air patrol over Goodwins.
(b) A/c from Hebrides to Rokall (200 miles W. of Hebrides)

Dover Command. Dover is now an independent command. (Adty. 1945/27)

RHEINGOLD. German S.S. RHEINGOLD (5065 t) (captured by DELHI) arrived at Kirkwall. Lieut. Comdr. F.G. Hamley, R.N, i/c prize crew.

WEATHER.

North Sea. Fresh to strong N.E. wind visibility good. Further outlook N.E. gale.
Channel. Fresh N.E. wind, developing to N.E. gale.
Horns Reef. Fresh N.E. wind, good visibility
Western Approaches. Fresh to strong wind, good visibility.

War Diary. 28.10.39.
Saturday.

U-Boat Campaign.

Home Commands.

Attacks on Shipping. 0200 S S BRONTE (5300 t) in outward bound convoy was torpedoed 180 miles west of =Lands End. Was taken in tow but parted tow and became unmanageable owing to weather and was sunk by ESK 1638/30.(C in C W.A.1818/1) (See Attacks below).
British trawlers ST NIDAN (565 t) and LYNX II (250 t) were attacked by s/m 60 miles north Cape Wrath ~~(1 did LYNX sink)~~. Three destroyers hunting.
Two ships sunk 30-40 miles NW Sulo Skerries.(see above)

s/m's sighted.
0430 58°10'N 3°8'W By drifter CLANS.
0734 59°30'N 4°30'W
0910 000° Newquay Hd. 2 miles, course 335°
1100 320° St Abbs Hd. 4 miles.
0945 56°54'N 2°44'E with S47 on conning tower, sighted by Danish ship VIBEKEMERSK (Newcastle 46 1652/30)
1215 by D/F within 40 miles Cape Finisterre.
1545 10 miles west of Lizard.
1600 by Greek ship HYDURGUSSA off C.Finisterre (doubtful)
? time 7 miles NNE St.Catherine. 1237 7 miles S.S.W. St. Catherines by S.S. MARIE FLORE (I.C. 0252/39)
1145 60°N 5°W by a/c (I.C.0252/39)
0810 See 27/10

Attacks on U-boats. 0015 by s/m L 27 on patrol in Zone G off Utvoer Lt. Unsuccessful.
WHIRLWIND dropped 5 d/c's on s/m which attacked BRONTE, apparently without result.
0930 Polish destroyer BLYSCAWICA sighted periscope and attacked in 54°45'N 5°12'W (off Mull of Galloway). Result not known.
2209 ZULU and GURKHA fired 4 patterns over firm contact off St.Abb's Hd. A/c and trawler reoprts 27/10 indicated that a U-boat was near this position.
SHELDRAKE and a/c searching for U-boat sighted by a/c off Oban 1200 and 1330.
0834 a/c dropped 1 bomb on s/m 59° 50'N, 4° 50'W (100'W Fair I.) (I.C.0252/39)

America and West Indies.

Possible s/m 20 miles north Nassau.

War Diary.

28.10.39
~~Friday.~~ Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

TOGO
South Atlantic. Potential raider TOGO, reported in Gulf of Guinea, Forces K and X informed. (C. in C. S.A.1811/2/11) Consul General. Leopoldsville 1400/24).

German Merchant Ship Intelligence.

BREMEN — BREMEN reported Murmansk painted grey with one funnel removed and taken in half of large tanker cargo, preparing for sea, due to sail 18 or 19/11. Also at Murmansk 2 tankers 10,000 and 8,000 tons and about 10 other German ships preparing for sea, disguised by removing part of upper works and painting Russian flag on side and flying Russian ensign. (F.O.C.N.P., 2326/18/11)

War Diary.

28.10.1939,
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Bases, Malta or Alexandria.

In view of Admiralty 0301/27 and to enable me to exercise adequate control over Fleet, intend gradually to Centre Fleet activities more on Malta than Alexandria. . . . Now appearing essential a Senior Naval Officer should join Mission about to proceed to Turkey.
(C. in C., Med., 0907/28.

Suggest S.N.O. for Turkish Mission.

War Diary.

28. 10. 1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Possible Enemy Attack, Distribution.

Heavy air attack on this country combined with raids by seaborne and airborne troops may take place in near future. Necessary to form a concentration of cruisers and destroyers on East Coast. EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD to proceed to Rosyth now. NEWCASTLE and GLASGOW to sail for Rosyth 31/10. Six destroyers of 7th D.F., four of 4th D.F., five from Home Fleet, and STURDY to proceed to Humber; six from 19th D.F., three from Portsmouth, eight from Western Approaches (to include ILEX, ISIS and IMPERIAL) to proceed to Harwich. Submarine patrol to westward of German minefield is being established. Army and Air Force taking corresponding measures. (Admiralty, D.O.D. (H), 0219/28).
During this temporary distribution, destroyers proceeding to Humber and Harwich are to be operated by Cs-in-C., Rosyth and Nore, and administered by F.O.i/c Humber and Harwich respectively. Convoys on East Coast to be escorted by escort vessels and covered by day in the Humber area by A/A cruisers and destroyers. Small patrols of destroyers should be established in areas of Outer Dowsing and Galloper, primarily for A/S work. Remaining destroyers should be held ready as a striking force but given as much rest as possible. (D.O.D. (H), 1447/28).

A.M.C's Not To Be Withdrawn.

Admiralty's 0219/28, if no cruiser is available to relieve SOUTHAMPTON on 2nd November, intend to withdraw A.M.C. from Denmark Straits. (F.O.C.N.P., 2240/28). A.M.C's should NOT be withdrawn (D.O.D. (H), 2244/30).

Deep Minefield.

It is intended to lay a deep minefield in the area enclosed by parallels 54°50' N., and 54°56' N., and the meridians of ØØ 00° 45' W. and 01° 00' W. Short title A. V. has been allocated to the operation (D.O.D (H), 1732/28).

Submarine Patrol.

Submarine patrol on line 344° from position 53° 24' N., 4° 10' E., submarines twelve miles apart, to be maintained until further orders. (D.O.D (H), 0220/28). Object of patrol amended to attack enemy surface ships including transports when conditions appear unfavourable for aircraft reconnaissance, in which case reconnaissance should be primary role. Submarines not to be attacked unless there is no possible doubt as to their identity. (D.O.D.(H), 1752/30)

War Diary. 28.10.1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Northern Patrol Bases. Admiralty 1936/27/10. Consider headquarters Northern Patrol should be on Clyde using Liverpool for refitting and leave of A.M.C.'s. 7th C.S. and 11th C.S. to use Sollum Voe until relieved. Trawlers to be based at Kirkwall. Reasons in favour of HQ on Clyde given in my 1507/22. Disadvantages of using Port A for Northern Patrol. (F.O.C.N.P., 1953/28).

Your 1607/22 and your 1953/28. After two days' experience of Clyde I do not recommend it as suitable for Northern Patrol Headquarters. Recommend operational staff should remain at Kirkwall and some of technical staff be sent to whichever base A.M.C.'s work from. (C. in C., H.F., 1059/2).

In view of H.F. 1059/2, request you will report any modifications you wish to make to the proposals in your 1953/28 (D.O.D.(H) to V.A.N.P., 2051/3). Reply in detail (V.A.N.P., 2222/3).

Orkneys-Shetlands Situation. Admiralty 0219/28. Position in Orkneys and Shetlands described. IRON DUKE beached and with 120 men on board. GREENWICH, GUARDIAN, KINGSTON undergoing repair and few M/S and A/S trawlers at Lyness. Armed trawlers at Kirkwall. Details of Lewis guns and small arms at Lyness, Hatston air station, and military forces. Shetlands, one or more ships of 7th C.S. and 11th C.S. at Sullum Voe on each day, parties could not be landed for defence, e.g., Lerwick, without reducing efficiency of ships. Scattered National Defence Corps exists for guarding vulnerable points. R.A.F. 100 Wing at Sullom Voe. Base ship MANELA has 8 Lewis guns. (A.C.O.S., 1832/29).

HOme Fleet. Standing to northward for 12 hours from 0800. Shall then proceed to Clyde, arriving 1000 Tuesday, 31/10. (C. in C., H.F., 0727/29).

HOME COMMANDS.

Northern Patrol Head-quarters.	Consider headquarters Northern Patrol should be on Clyde, Liverpool being used for refit and leave of A.M.C.'s. Other suggestions. (V.A.N.P., 1953/28, inreference to Admiralty's 1936/27/10).

War Diary. 28.10.39 ~~Friday.~~ Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 5 destroyers are covering the Narvik convoy. Admiralty instructed C. in C. to remain at sea for a further 24 hours.
EDINBURGH, AURORA and 4 destroyers escorting Narvik convoy. REPULSE and FURIOUS on passage to Halifax (see 26/10)

CITY OF FLINT Sweep by 5th D.F. Captain D.5 with 5 destroyers has been ordered to proceed so as to be in vicinity of Utsoer Light (Norway) at 0600 30/10, and then sweep Northward to intercept CITY OF FLINT (C. in C.H.F.0849/28). She was reported by British Consul Tromsoe as having left Tromsoe, 1700/30 Southbound flying German flag and accompanied by Norwegian torpedo boat.(D.O.D.(H) 1707/31). See also 15/10, 18/10, 22/10, 30/10, 23/10, 21/10.

Northern Patrol. 2 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes.
3 " " Faroes and Iceland.
1 cruiser and 2 AMC's in Denmark Strait.
AMC's must use Clyde until Scapa is made S/M proof etc.
(FOCNP 1507/22)

Air Reconnaissance. Normal air patrols over North Sea and Western Approaches. In addition (a) Air patrol over Dogger Bank. ~~In addition~~ (b) air patrol over Goodwins.

Western Approaches. Sweep by 12th Destroyer Flotilla, EXMOUTH and GREYHOUND to intercept U-boat possibly returning Northabout. (A.C.W.A. 2007/27). Other dispositions to intercept her (C. in C. W.A.1909/28).

Convoys. F.N.28 (Thames to Firth of Forth) cancelled owing to weather (C. in C. Nore 1215/28).

TURE JARL Warning. Indications that Norwegian ship TURE JARL gave warning to S/M of aircraft approaching to attack 70 miles N.W. Orkneys.
(H.Q. Coastal Command 1828/30.

WEATHER.

North Sea - Fresh to strong N.E. wind. Visibility good. Further outlook N.E. gale.
Channel. Fresh N.E. wind, developing to N.E. gale. Western approaches Fresh to strong wind good visibility.
Horns Reef. Fresh N.E. wind good visibility.

War Diary. 29.10.1939,
Sunday.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

U.12, Body Found. On 29/10, A.M., near Bleriot Plage - Calais, body found of Captain-Lieutenant Von Der Ropp, Captain of U.12, with respirator apparatus marked U.12. Body had been in the sea about three weeks. (Paris (Murat), 1710/29).

29.10.39.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

HOME COMMANDS.

M.V's attacked.

0315 MALABAR (7976 tons) with HX5(A) for London, carrying Commodore (R.A. G.W. Taylor) was torpedoed (180 miles W. Lands End) 49° 57' N. 7° 37' W. (GRAFTON 0315/29). Sank at 1420.

VARANGMALM (Norwegian 3618 tons) sunk 53° N. 0° 17' E, presumed mined 0830. Crew saved (Rosyth 1658/29). Iron ore. No attack observed. Bound Antwerp from Norway. (N.I.D 4620/39) Norwegian ships sunk by German action during September/October)

Submarines sighted.

0200 59° 50' N. 3° 35' W. (Admiralty 2013/39) small submarine stopped S.S. CARMENFJELL (Norwegian) 30 miles N. Orkneys (V.A. N.P.1724/29)
0930 Trawler EFFICIENT reported large submarine 23 miles south of Lizard.
1050 in Loch Linnhe 56° 33' N. 5° 27' W.
1200 off Oban.
1620 S.S. HYBERT sighted submarine 50° N. 0° 20' W. (V.A. Dover 1620/30) (I.C. 0854/39 says C/T 50°30'N, 0°20'W)
59° N. 5° E. proceeding North (Admiralty to D.5. 1000 59°2'N, 5°E 700 ton s/m. Co N. 16 Kts (I.C. 0854/39) 1013/1).

U-Boats attacked.

0930 by Polish destroyer BLYSKAWICA 54° 45' N. 5° 12' W. MILFORD?
1045 LOCH MELFORT attacked contact 2.8 miles N. 66° W. from Portland Bill (Portland 2335/29, 2240/30).

URSULA attacked.

1500 URSULA (on Dogger Bank s/m patrol) was unsuccessfully attacked by U-boat with one torpedo in 55°23'N, 1°50'E (RA(S) 1341/8/11)

29.10.39.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

More submarines required.

Asking for more submarines to watch coast of Portugal and South Spain (F.O.C. N.A. 1216/29)
H.G. Convoys to stop and reform at Gibraltar (F.O.C. N.A. 1340/29) (Med. 1214/30).

South Atlantic.

Defences of Freetown. Admiralty 1502/29. See also 26/10, 24/10.

War Diary. 29. 10. 1939.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

East Coast Concentration. Admiralty's 1447/28, Arrangements for employment of destroyers. F.O.i/c Humber should report dispositions daily. STURDY to be employed in escorting ships to and from convoys. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1644/29).

29.10.39.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. FIREDRAKE joined NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 7 destroyers 0800 60 miles N. by E. Cape Wrath. At 2000 C. in C. was approximately 80 miles N.W. Muckle Flugga, Shetlands, intending to reach Clyde 1000/31.

Port A. Closing down. (N.O.i/c Port A 1015/29).

Northern Patrol. 2 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes (CARDIFF, CALEDON).
3 cruisers between Faroes and Iceland (DRAGON, DIOMEDE, COLOMBO)
In Denmark Strait SOUTHAMPTON and A.M.Cs. CHITRAL and AURANIA.

East Coast Defence. SHEFFIELD and EDINBURGH at Rosyth.
10 submarines on patrol off Dogger Bank. (Attack on URSULA - see U-boat campaign.)

7th D.F. Sweep Air Attack. 6 destroyers of 7th Destroyer Flotilla carrying out sweep; were off Terschelling 0430/30, then swept south along Dutch coast, then returned to Dogger Bank. Were shadowed 0800/30 by German aircraft and at 0900 were attacked. No casualties.

Destroyer concentration In addition, concentration of destroyers, ADVENTURE and 4 destroyers in Humber, and 11 destroyers at Harwich (all returned to their normal commands 5/11).

WEATHER.

0500 B.S.T.

North Sea: Fresh to strong N.E. winds. Gale in Humber and Thames areas. Moderate visibility.

Channel: Moderate to strong north wind. Gale in eastern area. Moderate to good visibility.

Western Approaches: Light to moderate east wind. V.G. visibility.

Horns Reef: Moderate to fresh N.E. wind. Good visibility.

Outlook: Winds in Humber and Thames areas moderating, otherwise little change.

War Diary.

30. 10. 1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

Attacks on U-Boats.

M.013344/39, dated 30. 10. 1939. Subject, Attacks on Enemy Submarines, 13th, 16th and 18th October, 1939, Reports re.
Ships concerned, AFRIDI, VALOROUS and Sloops, WOOLSTON, GURKHA.

30.10.39
Monday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

HOME COMMANDS.

M.V's attacked.

1140 S.S. JUNO (Finnish 1,240 t.) mined and sunk 53°45'N 0°16'E (10 miles N Humber Light). 1K, 9w, 5 missing

JUNO

1333 S.S. THRASYVOULOS (Greek 3,700 t.) not in convoy sunk by S/M (attacked 1200?) 49°25'N 11°18'W (C.C.N.A. 1349/30, Land's End Radio 0615/3). IC 0854/39 gives position 49°9'N, 11°85'W. 22 men missing. *

THRASYVOULOS

2153 S.S. CAIRNMONA (4,700 t.) torpedoed (15 miles N. by E. Peterhead) 57°38'N 1°45'W, sunk 2253. Crew picked up by drifter River LUSSIE, general cargo grain etc. In convoy from Halifax
Report of interview with Mr. J.W. Fairlie, Master of the CAIRNMONA.

CAIRNMONA

S/M's sighted.

0033 D/F fix of enemy S/M 48°12'N 11°5'W (240 miles W. Ushant) 1340 S/M reported 59°8'N 3°28'W steering 165°(300 Marwick Head, Orkneys 4 miles).
1230 (about) S/M sighted 16 miles N.N.W. Humber Lt.V. (Humber 1552/30).
1640 unknown enemy unit by D/F between Naze and 57°20'N 5°0'E (Adty. 1711/30).
2153 U-Boat 57°38'N 1°45'W (Adty. 2340/30).
2340 U-Boat 56°28'N 1°15'W (Adty. 0642/31).
2300 S/M sighted 44°2 G.S.E. 39 (RA(S) 1649/31).
2340 SEAHORSE sighted enemy S/M 60 miles W.N.W. Rosyth (?) (Rosyth 0625/31) (C.in C. Rosyth 0948/31)
1830 rear ship of convoy 10 miles South St. Catherines (I. of W.) sighted S/M (VENETIA 1835/30).
1014 am over enemy s/m in position VLLZ 0402 440 (A/c. 224 Sqn. Duty W 1014/30)

U-Boats Attacked.

1105 A/C dropped 2 bombs on S/M while submerging 20 miles S.W. Lister Light (S. Norway). No apparent result.* 1130 trawler reported seeing A/C bomb presumed S/M 10 miles E.N.E. Aberdeen.

* (ACHQ Daily Intelligence 1445/30) Pos. was 57°54'N, 6°E (I.C. 0254/39)
0950 a/c. attacked suspected s/m. 58°8'N, 6°5'W (12 miles ESE Stornoway) No result.

* Nothing at all was done for crew, although sea was very rough and position was a considerable distance from coast. 6 men of the crew of 28 were rescued by Norwegian HAUMTY after 4 days and 4 nights at sea (M 016778/39 list of Greek vessels sunk by German action)

30.10.39.
Monday.

Leakage in Clyde area. — Leakage of information from the Clyde area, (F.O. N.C.C. Clyde 1915/30). See MOI 3254/39

Convoys reported by U-Boat. — Possibility that convoys off west coast of Spain and Portugal may have been reported by a U-boat (Admiralty 0436/30).

Enemy air activity. — See 31/10 (2nd page)

WEATHER.

0500 B.S.T.

North Sea: Moderate East winds. Moderate visibility. Cloudy with showers.

Channel: Fresh to strong E.N.E. wind. Moderate visibility, rain. Improving.

Western Approaches: Fresh N.E. wind. Moderate to good visibility. Perhaps rain later.

Horns Reef: Moderate East wind. Moderate to good visibility. Cloudy.

Outlook: No change expected.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U-boat supplies. — Rendezvous for submarines and supply tankers reported to be in 23° 40' N. 56° 25' W. Submarine base on north coast of Yucatan between 21° 37' N. 88° 15' W. (N.S. Ottawa 1110/30). Patrol of French s/m's was arranged (C. in C. A. & W. I. 1225/4)

China.

Contraband Control. — Arrangements for search of German merchant ships in conjunction with French (C. in C. China 1531/30) cf. 11/10/39.

(A) Insert on previous page.

Air Action. — JERVIS reported enemy aircraft bombing in position 325 HTL2 52 at 0855. Chatham ordered 2nd Blenheim flight from Binbrook newton (0905) and Coastal battle flight 3 Hudsons from Thornaby (0942). Aircraft not to join in general battle but only to attack single A.C. or stragglers.

30.10.39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.	AURORA, CURLEW and 3 destroyers escorting Narvik convoy. (Convoy split at 1800/29, 2 ships proceeding to Clyde via Cape Wrath, remainder escorted to rendezvous with CURLEW 50 miles E. of Sumburgh Head, South Shetlands at 0800/30, then to Methil.)
Humber M.F.	ADVENTURE completed minelaying operation off Humber and proceeded to Rosyth 31/10.
Humber Force.	Sweep to Terschelling. (Admiralty 2014/30).
Northern Patrol.	2 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes. 3 cruisers between Faroes and Iceland. In Denmark Strait 3 A.M.Cs. and 1 cruiser.
East Coast Defence. 7th D.F. Sweep see 29/10.	6 destroyers at Humber. 12 destroyers at Harwich. 10 submarines on Dogger Bank patrol.
Skagerrak and Bight Patrols.	Vide R.A.(S) 2107/30 and Admiralty 1918/31.
Harwich Force.	Organisation vide Captain D.12 1101/30, C.in C. W.A. 2019/30, Admiralty 1315/31.
Air Reconnaissance.	Normal air patrols over North Sea and Western Approaches . In addition: (a) 3 Hudsons to cover operations of Captain D.7. See 29/10. (b) 4 Hudsons 20 miles apart to southward of the continuous patrol line. (c) 6 Ansons over Dogger Bank. (d) 1 Anson for protection duties with fishing fleet off Smith's Knoll. (e) Special anti-submarine patrol in Minch Channels.
CITY OF FLINT. SCHWABEN.	Arrived Tromsoe 1300. Left Tromsoe 1700 in company with Norwegian destroyer, followed by German merchant vessel SCHWABEN, 7773 tons, which had sailed from Santos 26/9/39. (Tromsoe 1855/30, 2145/31).
Neutrals assisting German aircraft.	Possibility of German bombers being assisted by W/T by Norwegian Ships in position 065° Montrose 200 miles. (GREENWICH No. T.O.O. 30/10).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-Boats attacked.

0630 By SOMALI off Rattray Head and by FAME at 0915, 47 depth charges dropped. Believed U-boat destroyed. (Capt. D.6, 0915/31, 1245/31, C. in C. Rosyth 1219/31, 1425/31, 1923/31, 1207/6) Position was 57° 45' N. 1° 2' W. (I.C. 0255/39) Probably sunk (Assmt Committee).

0015 S.S. STARCROSS (in Narvik Convoy) off Rattray Head rammed what he thought was a submarine. Considered unlikely (vide 1/11).

1545 by aircraft 130 miles E. by N. Aberdeen. Result unknown. Position 57° 20' N. 2° E. Course of U-boat 110° (I.C. 0255/39).

Submarines sighted.

0740 Off May Island.

0430 43° 45' N. 9° 10' W. (Adty. 1340/31) (cf. BAOULE below).

0045 by steam trawler O. ESSEX 5 miles N.W. by N. Cromer Lt. Vessel. (Rosyth 1243/31).

1350 Possible submarine 6 miles N.W. Cape Grisnez steering S.W. (C. in C. Nore 1542/31).

1824 B.S.T. by reliable D/F fix 56° 50' N. 2° 20' E. probable submarine (Admiralty 1853/31). (Probably 1545 above I.C.0255/39).

2038 by D/F 41° 10' N. 12° 0' W. probably U-boat. Unreliable fix. (Adty 2145/31).

M.V's. attacked.

0530 304° 42 miles Coruna a vessel in French convoy was attacked by submarine. (Adty. 1336/31). (Evidently same as BAOULE). Position where sunk: 43° 45' N, 9° 10' W. (I.C. 0255/39).

BAOULE sunk.

BAOULE (French 5874 t.) reported to have been attacked while in a French convoy 40' N. of C. Finisterre. (Evidently same as the above). Sunk.

KINDIESEL chased.

1030 submarine reported chasing S.S. KINDIESEL (339 t.) 53° 49' N. 0° 11' E. JUPITER detached from Convoy F S 29 to search. No result (CAIRO 1310/31). Not in convoy.

War Diary.

31.10.39.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Detached Forces.

Detached forces formed and letters allocated as follows:-

F BERWICK and YORK

G 2 of CUMBERLAND, EXETER, AJAX or ACHILLES.

H SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE

I CORNWALL, DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE

J MALAYA and GLORIOUS

K ARK ROYAL, RENOWN and NEPTUNE

L FURIOUS and REPULSE

X First Division of French 8-in. gun Cruisers STRASBOURG and HERMES

Y STRASBOURG and HERMES

Above composition to be substituted for that in para. 4 Admiralty message 1409/5/10. (Adty 1210/31).

East Indies.

Leakage of Information.

Reported that movements of British ships and convoys are passed to Germany by W/T of S.S. LIEBENFELS now at Massawa (C. in C. E.I. 18212/31).

U-Boats.

Presumed S/M attacked by H.M.I.S. RATNAGIRI 0448 in 9° 52' N. 75° 49' E. (N.O. i/c Cochin 1735/31)

Several unconfirmed rumours of S/Ms off coast of Ceylon and West Indies. (C. in C. E.I. 18122/31, N.S.S.O. Cochin 1130/30).

South Atlantic.

SUSSEX, aircraft accident, 2 officers and 1 rating killed. (Death not yet officially presumed).

War Diary. 31.10.39.
Tuesday.

W E A T H E R.

0500 North Sea: Strong E. wind. Moderate visibility. Cloudy.
Channel: do. do. Rain
Western Approaches: do. do. Rain

Horns Reef: Moderate E.N.E. wind. Visibility V.G. Overcast outlook. Wind moderating.

Enemy Air Activity. A trawler reported sighting a German aircraft approx. 20 miles E.S.E. St. Abbs Head a.m. A Heinkel aircraft appeared over the herring fishing fleet a.m. but was driven off by one of our older types of reconnaissance aircraft (the "Kipper Kite").

30/10 A British civil aircraft proceeding to Norway was chased by two enemy flying boats 30/10. German aircraft appear to be watching all shipping passing between the N. Hinder Lt. V. and Dutch coast.

War Diary.

31. 10. 1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

"City of Flint".	Admiralty appreciation concludes that in view of importance of CITY OF CLINT Germans may send a heavy ship to meet her, especially as they probably know our Fleet is in Clyde. GLASGOW and NEWCASTLE being sent to support destroyers. Suggested HOOD be sent to reinforce. (D.C.N.S., to C-in-C., H.F., 2200/31)
German Aircraft Map.	Courses drawn on map found in German A/C captured 28/10. Rosyth, Greenock and Oban areas specially marked. (D.N.I., 1830/31).

War Diary.

31.10.39
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

GLASGOW and NEWCASTLE left Portsmouth p.m. for Rosyth.

CITY OF FLINT
Dispositions to intercept.
See also
15/10
21/10
30/10
28/10
4/11

CITY OF FLINT was reported to have passed Lodingen Light (68°25'N 16°01'E) at 1100/31 in the inner channels southward bound. D5 and destroyers having returned to Sullum Voe to oil proceeded at 0100/1 to 64°35'N off Norwegian coast to try to make contact with her. If unsuccessful a patrol will be established off Stadtland 62°10'N. Considerable air reconnaissance is being provided to assist in search and GLASGOW and NEWCASTLE have been ordered to support the destroyers and should pass through position 60°N 01°E at 0001/2. (Capt. D5 1401/31, 2203/31. Adty. 1909/31). At 2356/2 GLASGOW located CITY OF FLINT escorted by a Norwegian minelayer, inside territorial waters. GLASGOW was illuminated and warned off. As there was no likelihood of CITY OF FLINT coming out of territorial waters the hunt was abandoned at 0345/3. Admiralty ordered GLASGOW to Rosyth, D5 and destroyers to Sullum Voe, NEWCASTLE to Sullum Voe to fuel and then to Northern Patrol. CITY OF FLINT was taken into Haugesund ~~8~~ p.m. 3/11 by the German prize crew. Prize crew was interned by the Norwegians and crew liberated. CITY OF FLINT arrived at Bergen a.m. 4/11.
Norwegians apparently undecided whether to board her 3/11: waited 6 hours then boarded by stealth while prize crew asleep (N.I.D. 4010/39. CITY OF FLINT. addl. inform.)

Northern Patrol.

3 cruisers between Orkneys and Faroes.
3 " " Faroes " Iceland.
2 A M C's and 1 cruiser in Denmark Strait.

East Coast Defence.

10 destroyers based on Humber, 16 destroyers on Harwich, 10 S/Ms on Dogger Bank Patrol.

Bombing Restrictions.

Areas see Adty. 1831/31.

Air Reconnaissance.

Usual air patrols over North Sea.
Anti S/M patrol from C. Wrath to Firth of Clyde.
Aircraft patrol of Goodwins.
Air escort for Narvik convoy.

Western Approaches.

Possibility of 3 more U-Boats reaching Western Approaches from the North on 31/10 or 1/11.
(Adty. 1316/30)

NAVAL CASUALTIES.

up to end of October.
Officers 74 k., 8 W. Ratings 1379 k., 48 W.
Total 1453 k. 56 W. plus 18 Maltese killed.

Air attack on convoy.

convoy FN (Thames to Firth of Forth) was attacked 0946 by German flying boat 30 miles East of Spurn Point. Two bombs were dropped. No damage. The southbound convoy was shadowed. Fighter patrols were flown off to the assistance of both convoys.

Trade.

Provisional War Trade Agreement in force under which Icelandic native produce is permitted to be carried direct to Germany
(Adty. 1712/31)(Agreement expired 25/11 · see 11/11)

War Diary. U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. 1.11.39. Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Ships attacked.
WARWICK CASTLE.

U-Boats sighted.

✓ 0805 WARWICK CASTLE was gunned in 32°30'N 13°45'W (Portishead 1100/1).

0928 a merchant vessel in convoy saw a S/M 10 miles west of Holyhead. VERSATILE and VORTIGERN hunted, but made no contact.
1400 ship in convoy sighted s/m 53°0'N 5°0'W (22 miles S.W. Holyhead)
Destroyers hunting (IC 0856/39) (see below)
1000 by fishing vessel 5 miles NW Port Stewart (Belfast 1243/1).
1020 by trawler 54°12'N, 2°38'E, 4 three periscopes.
1035 by D/F (reliable) 44°30'N, 10°0'W (Adty.1516/1).

1247 by D/F 40 miles E Buchan Ness. BROKE investigated without result. This report shows that there is still one S/M off the Aberdeenshire coast (cf. STARCROSS 31/10).

S/M reported by fishermen off Londonderry. WIDGEON and SHELDRAKE hunted. No result.

U-Boats attacked.

✓ 0031 by GRIMSBY 42 miles 101° E Whitby. Result uncertain.

FLEETWOOD and JUPITER dropped d/c's between 0946 and 1051 in 52°28'N, 1°59'E. No result. (Fleetwood 1135/1). Further d/c's dropped 1250 and 1305 (Fleetwood 1445/1/11)

0803 intercept ?ship attacked enemy S/M in 32°30'N, 13°45'W. (Devil's Point 0835/1). EGBA.

✓ BROKE hunting S/M reported in 57°20'N, 0°30'W (unreliable fix). (Adty 1307/1.C in C Rosyth 1326/1, 1338/1, 1628/1).

✓ VERSATILE and VOLUNTEER hunting S/M reported in 53°0'N, 5°0'W (VERSATILE 1400/1).

NORTH ATLANTIC.

EGBA ✓

British s.s. EGBA in lat. 32° 42'N, 13° 45' W was chased from 0630 by enemy s/m which fired 5 rounds at her without hitting. EGBA replied with 5 rounds from 4-inch gun while zigzagging at full speed and hampering s/m by smoke floats. Third round observed to detonate with yellow flash and much smoke just abaft conning tower. S/m disappeared and was not seen again. (C. in C. S.A 1635/10/ on arrival of EGBA at Freetown). Position ? 32° 30'N 13° 45' W. A French s/m REDOUTABLE was in position given by EGBA in her SOS at 0808 (F.O.C.N.A 1840/1)

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Unconfirmed report of s/m 6 miles off shore near Ichuy River Lt. House 33° 45'S, 53° 24'W. (Brazil).

1.11.39
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

NORTH
~~South~~ Atlantic.

Trade. Routeing instructions for British coasting vessels bound to ports in Bay of Biscay will be given by French authorities at Brest. (Adty.2046/1).

America & West Indies.

DEUTSCHLAND was reported in 42°20'N, 40°56'W (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1814/2).
Supply ships (H.S.Hq.Ottawa 1656/3).

COULMORE reported sighting a S/M in 40°20'N, 62°31'W at 0300 (~~Adty~~ A.W.I.0350/1). Presence of U-boat open to doubt (F.O.C.3BS 1309/2) (cf. C.in C. A.W.I.0516/3)

East Indies.

Force J. Suggestion that two 8" cruisers should be included instead of a battleship. (C.-in-C. E.I.1327/1).

China.

Raiders. Potential enemy A M C's. (Chief of Intell. Staff, Far East 1234/1. Difficulties of watching them with available forces. Proposals. (C.-in-C. China 1120/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Disposition. Movements for EXETER, CUMBERLAND, AJAX and ACHILLES. (Cdre., S.A.Div.,A.W.I.,1645/1).

Forces K, Y, L. French Ministry of Marine suggest Force K proceed to West Indies and that Force Y continue to operate from Dakar. In view of despatch of Force L the latter agreed to, but Force K will continue to be based on Freetown. French have also stated that in event of the enemy being located he will be pursued in any area, but that the zone south of latitude of Pernambuco should come under British forces. This has been concurred in. (D.O.D. (F), 1521/1).

Forces X and K, Co-ordination with French. C.S.O. to 1st S.L., 2307/1. C.in C., S.A., 1145/2 in reply states that although V.A. Duplat is one year senior to him (C. in C.), he volunteered to carry out any suggestion for operational Force X to co-ordinate movements of that force with Force K. G. and H.

China.

Potential Raiders. Movements of enemy merchantmen as indications of presence of raiders. (Capt. on Staff, HMS TERROR), 1158/1). Concur that certain ships in Eastern waters may be earmarked for assistance of raiders, utmost importance therefore attaches to early intelligence of enemy merchant ship movements. (D.N.I., 1400/2).

Submarine Rumours. Requesting information re circulation of rumours among submarine personnel of losses caused by our own aircraft. (C. in C., China, 1048/1). Reply, (D.C.N.S., 0126/2).

War Diary. 1.11.1939,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic, etc.

Forces K, L, Y. French Ministry of Marine suggestion that Force K proceed to the West Indies and Force Y continue to operate from Dakar. In view of despatch of Force L, the latter agreed to, but Force K will continue to be based on Freetown. (D.O.D. (F), 1521/1). H.M.S. HERMES will remain for the time being under French command. (D.O.D. (F), 1603/1).
Request I may be informed of the area in which it is intended Force L is to operate. (C. in C., America and West Indies, 1527/2).
Desired that Force L should operate for the present from Halifax, escorts being provided by R.C.N. destroyers. Suggest HYPERION and HUNTER proceed Halifax, and that YORK or PERTH reinforce the Caribbean Area. (D.O.D. (F), 0054/4).
Ref. 0054/4. Under present conditions, the two destroyers at Halifax are at sea with convoy for 4 to 5 days per week. Therefore unlikely to be available if required to escort Force L until additional destroyers arrive. (F.O.C., 3rd B.S., 1011/4).

War Diary

1.11.39.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.	C.-in-C. with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 7 destroyers in Clyde. AURORA and CURLEW having successfully escorted Harvik Convoy to Methil are at Rosyth. EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD also at Rosyth.
5th M/S Flotilla	Daily effective strength is reduced to 4 or 5 ships, due to docking etc. (S.O.5 M/S Flotilla 1135/1).
East Coast Defence.	4 destroyers from Harwich on patrol off Smith's Knoll (NE Yarmouth) on account of various reports of vessels suspected of co-operating with German submarines (C in C Nore 1853/31).
Air Reconnaissances.	Special searches for CITY OF FLINT (Vide 31/10). Normal patrol towards Oberstad. Two searches over southern part of North Sea.
C.C.Base. Kirkwall.	Objections to proposed change to Scapa Bay (A.C.OS.1228/1).

WEATHER.

0500/1

North Sea: Wind S.E., moderate to fresh, local rain. Visibility moderate in south.

Horns Reef: Wind E, moderate. Visibility good.

Channel: Wind E, moderate to fresh, local rain. Visibility moderate in east, good in west.

Western Approaches: Wind S.E., moderate to strong. Visibility V.G., except in rain.

Outlook: Little change.

Enemy minefields. Swedish W/T report of German minefield extended westward. Area now dangerous is:-

53° 56' N 4° 25' E
53° 36' N 6° 2' E
56° 30' N 6° 2' E
56° 30' N 3° 0' E (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 17II/1)

2.11.39.
Thursday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy S/Ms attacked. GREYHOUND, GRENVILLE hunting U-Boat 213° Start Point 17 miles (C.-in-C. W.A. 1055/2).

Enemy S/Ms sighted. 1715 8 miles W. ~~Germany~~ Guernsey, French destroyers and aircraft searching.
1900 off E. Margate buoy, KEITH, GURKHA, BLANCHE searching.
KEITH and BLANCHE continued to patrol between N. Goodwins and Edinburgh Channel.
2110 Unreliable D/F fix 43°00'N 14°20'W.

BRUGES. About 1500 Belgian ship BRUGES was stopped by a German S/M with skull and crossbones painted on conning tower in 45°6'N 8°4'W (CCO Weymouth 1245/4) (Cf. KORINTHION 3/11).

HMS SUNFISH on patrol sighted s/m in 55° 0'N 3° 30'E, extremely bad weather, uncertain if hostile (RA(S) 1341/8)

South Atlantic.

0700 A surface warship sighted a S/M proceeding northward (?) south of Santiago Island, C. Verde (vide also 0100/4).

War Diary. 2.11.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy. French approve DUNKERQUE and destroyer escort forming part of eastern covering force for first Canadian troop convoy. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1011/2).

2.11.39.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders. Supply ships: D.N.I's views, D.N.I. 1400/2.

North Atlantic.
Leakage of information from Madeira concerning movements of Allied shipping. (NCSO Fundral 1745/3).

Raiders. South Atlantic.
Attempts to purchase oil for (S.O.(1) Cape Town 1331/2).

7th S/M Flotilla. MAIDSTONE and S/M's at Freetown to be known as 7th S/M Flotilla (Adty. 1107/2).

S. African Naval forces.
South African Naval Forces.
Re control of South Africa Naval Forces (C.-in-C. S.A. 1915/1). (Government of South Africa wish to break away from control by British SNO's).
Establishment of seaward Defence Force. (Adty. 1931/14/10, S.N.O. Simonstown 1537/20/10).

America and West Indies. (See below)
Cameronea the most dangerous German centre, but Argentine Government are watching it. (C-in-C. S.A.D, A.&W.I.0852/30).

Transports.
Mediterranean.
Transports to sail in groups to economise escorts. (C.-in-C. Med. 1303/2).

Forces YY and ZZ. Australia.
Forces Y and Z to be designated YY and ZZ respectively. (Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 2050/2).

America & West Indies.

Dispositions.
CARADOC expected Esquimalt to replace OTTAWA and RESTINGOUCHE about 20/11. SKEENA (refitting Halifax) to be available about 18/11.
4th Division Destroyers, two to Halifax and two to Kingston as soon as boilers cleaned at Trinidad (C. in C A.W.I. 1232/1.)

2.11.39.
Thursday.

Train Ferries. To sail from Harwich to Calais (Harwich 1100/2, C.-in-C. Nore 1912/2). See also 8/11

Enemy Intelligence. Route taken by German ships returning home northabout (Adty. 1250/2) To 30°W, thence due north along 20th meridian to 60°N. At 60°N 20°W German ships are instructed by German Government to endeavour to sail round Iceland through Denmark Strait, continuing due East until reaching Norwegian territorial waters. (See also Adty. 0945/28/10). Captain of CITY OF FLINT states they follow coast of Greenland to 079°N then Great Circle to North Cape or Tromso (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1300/5).
Supply ships for U-Boats off Jaedern (Norway) (Adty. 1630/2 N.A. Oslo, 1800/3).

WEATHER.

0500

North Sea: Wind S.E., moderate to fresh, local rain and cloudy. Visibility good North of Shetland, moderate in other areas.
Horns Reef: Wind E, moderate, overcast with moderate visibility.
Channel: Wind S.E., rain with low visibility.
Western Approaches: Wind S.E. fresh to strong, overcast, local rain and low visibility.
Further Outlook: Little change, wind moderating in southern North Sea with poor visibility.

War Diary.

2.11.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

C.-in-C. with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 8 destroyers sailed at 0900 and proceeded westward of the Hebrides to cover the operations of the Northern Patrols for about 6 days. Four additional destroyers from the Plymouth Command are rendezvousing with C.-in-C. H.F. at entrance to Clyde, to provide additional A/S protection until clear of restricted waters.
C.S.1 to join Home Fleet (Adty. 0041/2/11)
BERWICK to join Home Fleet (Adty.0042/2/11).

Netherbutton.

CURLEW sailed from Rosyth 0330 for Scapa to take over duties of R.D.F. while Netherbutton Station is out of action for 24 hours for repairs (A.C. Orkneys 1052/1/11). See 8/11 (station was not in order until P.M. 8/11).

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes - DELHI, DUNEDIN, CALYPSO.
Between Faroes and Iceland - COLOMBO, DRAGON, DIOMEDE, & SCOTSTOWN A.M.C.
Denmark Strait - SOUTHAMPTON and AMC's CHITRAL, AURANIA, RAWALPINDI.
6th S/M Flotilla to be based at Blyth owing to congestion at Rosyth R.A.S. 1246/2/11. Adty. 2040/2/11.

East Coast Defence.

Available ships of 4th Destroyer Flotilla are proceeding to Rosyth, MAORI direct, GHURKA and ZULU in company with convoy FN30.
5 destroyers in Humber.
8 British and 1 Polish destroyer in Harwich.
2 destroyers on patrol off Lowestoft.
2 destroyers for East coast convoy.

Minelaying Operation H.W.

6 destroyers proceeding to Dover to cover mine-laying operation H.W., taking place 1400/2.
Re outer Dowsing Patrol etc. (C.-in-C. Rosyth, 1242/2).

Outer Dowsing Patrol.

Air Reconnaissances.

In addition to normal air reconnaissances the following special searches have been ordered for 2/11

(a) Special A/S search in vicinity of Clyde to cover sailing of Fleet.

(b) CITY OF FLINT searches (see 31/10).

(c) Two searches over southern portion of North Sea.

Western Approaches.

C.-in-C. W.A. to adjust scale of escorts per convoy so that he will be able (a) To maintain a striking force in the Western Approaches; (b) To contine to escort the existing outward and homeward bound convoys to and from the present limit of 12½-15°W; (c) Provide escorts for one additional OA, OB and SL convoy every 8 days.
(Adty. 1205/2).

3.11.39.
Friday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on Trade.

S.S. CANADA (Danish 11,108 t.) holed by mine 1600 10'E.N.E. Spurn Point. Sank 1630/4, position 53°42'5"N, 0°19'5"E. Crew saved.

U-Boats Reported.

0230 Greek steamer reports he was stopped by U-Boat 50 miles south Cape Ortegal. On 2/11 a Belgian steamer was stopped in that area.

0230 S.S. KORTHION (Greek) reports he was stopped in 44°32'N 8°12'W by an enemy S/M with skull and crossbones on conning tower, was allowed to proceed. (CCO Weymouth 1340/5) (Same position as BRUGES 2/11).

0710 Possible S/M crossing loop (C.-in-C. Rosyth 0816/3).

1300 S/M reported 3 miles N. Cherbourg. Report from Dunkirk.

2115 French destroyer BRANLEBAS reported track of torpedo in 49°38'N 2°50'W.

U-Boats Attacked.

~~1127~~ 1045 by aircraft of 269 Squadron 59°53'N 5°40'W, 85 miles N.N.W. Cape Wrath. Estimated 1 hit.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

S/M's reported.

2 S/M's reported 10 miles E. Funchal.
S/M west of Porto Santo, Madeira 1500.

Home Commands (continued)

S/M's reported.

Danish steamer DAGMAR was stopped by enemy s/m in 44° 12'N, 8° 44' W (Weymouth 1112/9)

Belgian steamer GIRONDE was stopped by enemy s/m in 44° 5'N, 8° 40' W (NEW 0100/9, C.C.O. Weymouth 1812/9)

War Diary. 3. 11. 1939,
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy. My 2106/17/10. Consider troops ready to sail by 7/12. Request Admiralty decision whether contingents should sail in one convoy or series of fast groups. Ice conditions and lack of anti-submarine protection elsewhere make necessary embarkation at Halifax, where no facility for previous concentration of troops exists. Difficulty of concealing information at Halifax. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 2132/3) Reply, see 12/11

War Diary. 3.11.1939,
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Enemy Raiders. Indications that German capital ships and cruisers now in their home waters, and present therefore a good opportunity for resting hunting groups, ships being kept at ~~short~~ notice at the discretion of Senior Officers to deal with an emergency. Indications also point to possibility of an armed merchant raider or raiders appearing before long in the Indian Ocean. (C.S.O., 1359/3).

War Diary.

3.11.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS (continued).

Enemy Intelligence.
(continued)

Aircraft Patrol.

Reports have been received that a daily patrol by two or three enemy aircraft coming from the direction of Sylt turns back again at 1045 in approximate position 100 miles East of Kinnaird Head (I.C. 0257/39)

3.11.39.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. At sea (vide 2/11)
DRAGON, DIOMEDE, COLOMBO arrived at Sullum Voe at daylight.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkneys and Faroes - 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland - 3 cruisers and 1 A.M.C
In Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C's.
SOUTHAMPTON returning to Scapa from Denmark Strait.
Polar Research ship DISCOVERY II being fitted out for Northern Patrol.

East Coast. No change in general destroyer dispositions.

Air Reconnaissances. In addition to normal air reconnaissance the following searches were made:- (A.C. H.Q. Donibristle D. 1733/2/11).

(i) Hudson battle flight to intercept enemy aircraft reported to be carrying out a regular patrol 110 miles East of Buchan Ness.

(ii) One Hudson along Dutch coast.

Convoys. F.N.31 cancelled owing to weather.

Enemy Intelligence. See Air Reconnaissances (i) above.
German Fleet. There are indications that the German capital ships and cruisers are now in their home waters. Good opportunity for resting the hunting groups (Adty. 1359/3/11).

Air Activity: also see over page. During the forenoon reconnaissance a/c's were reported near Firth of Forth over a north-bound and a south-bound East Coast convoy. One unidentified a/c sighted over Yell Sound, Shetlands, a.m.

WEATHER.

North Sea:	Wind S.E., Fresh. Visibility Moderate.
Horns Reef:	Wind E.S.E., moderate. Visibility moderate.
Channel:	Wind S., moderate. Visibility poor.
Western Approaches:	Wind S.E., fresh. Visibility moderate.
Outlook:	Little change.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Diego-Suarez. Possibility of establishing a base for S/M's at Diego-Suarez. (Adty. 1146/3). Construction and dredging required (C.-in-C. E.I. 1511Z/4).

North Atlantic.

British S/M's for Portugal. Vickers authorised to offer to Portuguese Government 3 "T" class S/M's. (F.O. No. 209/3/11 to Lisbon).

WAR DIARY. 4.11.39
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN
HOME COMMANDS.

Merchant Vessels Sunk.

SIG sunk. 1342 tons, Norwegian mined about 0600, 3 killed, 16 survivors (8 injured), sunk in 53°43'N. 0°17'E. (off Spurn Point) (1 mile North of CANADA's position see 3/11). (Fourth ship to be sunk on meridian 0°17'E.)

NIKOLAOS EMBIRICOS sunk. 5295 tons, Greek with 6875 tons of wheat from Galveston to Antwerp failed to comply with instruction, sunk by explosion 1555/4 East of Goodwins, in the Shallows minefield. No attack observed. Bound for Grimsby from Norway. (N.I.D.4620/39, Norwegian ship sunk by German action). Crew picked up in part by North Goodwin Lt.Vessel and part by a Dutch boat; afterwards taken off by British lifeboats. Struck two British mines in succession. (M.016778/39. List of Greek Vessels sunk by German action.)

U-boats reported.

0400 by trawler 20 miles E. Southwold, 52°13'N., 2°12'E.

1200 U-boat reported from French sources off Ymuiden steering N.W.

1503 S.S. BRANDON (6700 tons) was missed by a torpedo 120 miles W. Hebrides. TRIUMPH and TRIDENT in zones P and R were ordered to investigate.044'.

U.14 Bodies of 5 German sailors washed up between Dungeness and Hyde were identified as crew of U.14

U.12. Bodies of German sailors from U.13 also found in Dover Straits.

North Atlantic

1045 Master of Norwegian tanker STORANGER (9223 tons) reports that at 1045/4 when about 107 miles west of Lisbon he was stopped by gunfire from a German submarine which wanted to be supplied with diesel oil. This was not provided. Master was asked if he had previously been stopped by another submarine, which suggests that a second submarine was expected to be in that area. He reported that crew of the U-boat were in an "emaciated" condition.

S.S. ROSLIN CASTLE sighted submarine alongside an unknown steamer with derricks topped in 29°50'N. 19°40'W. (Probably a French submarine) I.C.0259/39).

U-boats attacked.

0220 H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE attacked confirmed contact position 156° DVUR 5 (ASSINIBOINE 0220/4).

War Diary. 4. 11. 1939,
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Escort Vessels Withdrawn. Need or A/S vessels in home waters and vessels with good A/A armament for East Coast convoys. Desired to withdraw EGRET and ROCHESTER. Two A.M.C.'s in addition to CATHAY will join your command. (1stS.L., 0055/4.
Your 0055/4. No serious objection. EGRET+ and ROCHESTER+ to sail from Durban and Aden respectively on 8/11 via Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 1344/4).

FOREIGN COMMANDS.

South Atlantic.

Escort Vessels Withdrawn.

Need for A/S vessels and vessels with good A/A armament for East Coast convoys. Desired to withdraw LONDONDERRY and AUCKLAND from South Atlantic. Two A.M.C.'s will join later. (1st S.L., 0112/4). In view of more urgent requirements in your 0112/4 I have no serious objection. (C. in C., S.A., 1854/4).

Mediterranean.

Escort Vessels Withdrawn.

Signal as above. Desired to withdraw FOWEY and DEPTFORD from Mediterranean, and would be much appreciated if you could spare ABERDEEN. (1st S.L., 0108/4). Your 0108/4. ABERDEEN, FOWEY and DEPTFORD are being sailed for Gibraltar forthwith. Observations on contraband control and escorts. Two or three old C class cruisers would be invaluable, as CAPETOWN has already proved. (C. in C., Med., 1143/4).
Greatly appreciate prompt response to my 0108/4. Much regret no C. or D. class cruisers other than CAPETOWN available. Difficulties realised. May be able to give further help when C. or D. class cruisers relieved by A.M.C.'s on Northern Patrol. (1st S.L., 1353/5).

China.

Escort Vessels Withdrawn.

Signal as above. Desired, unless serious objections, that all escort vessels on your station except one be withdrawn. Three A.M.C.'s will join shortly. (1st S.L., 0114/4).
Your 0114/4. WELLINGTON, LEITH and SANDWICH to leave forthwith, BIDEFORD, FOLKESTONE, LOWESTOFT and SCARBOROUGH refitting, etc. Propose retaining FALMOUTH. (C. in C., China, 1155/5).

Flagship KENT Withdrawn

Much regret having to take away fleet flagship, part of an essential move to reinforce Home Fleet to prevent raiders breaking out. LIVERPOOL will relieve KENT. (1st S.L., 0111/4). Details of docking of LIVERPOOL at Colombo and sailing for Singapore. (C. in C., East Indies, 1449/4).
Request information when LIVERPOOL will reach Singapore (C. in C., China, 2020/4).
Your 1150/5. Much appreciate prompt response to my 0111/4. KENT should return with moderate despatch, (1st S.L., to C. in C., China, 1352/5).

War Diary.

4.11.39.
Saturday.

Enemy Air Activity.

WEATHER.

0500/4.

North Sea: Wind SE moderate, gale in north, Visibility moderate or poor.

Horns Reef: Wind E moderate, visibility good.

Channel: Wind SE moderate to strong; Visibility Poor in east " Good in west

Western Approaches: Wind S strong, Visibility Good deteriorating.

Outlook: Unsettled.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

PIONIER — Search for German ship PIONIER (R.A.Aircraft Carriers 1950/3).

America and West Indies.

Flying boats to be purchased. — Proposal that 6 flying boats be purchased in U.S.A. for use in Caribbean Sea. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1352/4).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. — ADMIRAL SCHEER 200 miles west of Morocco proceeding W.N.W. accompanied by 3 submarines. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0935/11) (D.N.I. 2131/11).

DEUTSCHLAND (Tyrifjord) — MASTER of S.S.TYRIFJORD reported being stopped by pocket battleship DEUTSCHLAND 54° 6' N. 37° 19' W. 700 miles N.E. St. John's N.F. (V.A.N.P. 1330/12). Reliability of report being investigated. (I.C.0268/39) Log makes no mention of ship stopping. (V.A.N.P. 2234/13) See also 9/11. No evidence to prove that the vessel concerned was in fact the DEUTSCHLAND (I.C.0269/39 - 15/11). Interrogation of crew: V.A.N.P. is of opinion that TYRIFJORD was stopped by a German warship, that Master was intimidated and ordered crew to say nothing. (V.A.N.P. 1820/14).

Mediterranean.

C.C. delays to Italian ships. — Italian ships at Haifa being subjected to very considerable delays. Apathy at Haifa. As Italians no longer agree to submit to voluntary examination at Port Said, thereby necessitating more ships being diverted to Haifa, situation will deteriorate. While it is essential to treat Italians as other neutrals policy of non-delay of vessels is being severely hampered. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1943/3).

War Diary.

4. 11. 1939,
~~Friday~~. Saturday

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet Cruisers.

Request to C. in C., how do you propose to organise cruisers when reorganisation of the squadrons is complete. (1st S.L., 0106/4).

Reply: 2nd C.S., SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, BELFAST. 18th C.S., SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE, MANCHESTER, ORION, under Captain Renouf as a Commodore until promoted, and then as Rear-Admiral if he goes on Flag List. R.A. (D) Commanding H.F.D.F. to run flotillas only, but to take his turn on patrol and convoy duty. (C. in C., H.F., 1623/9).

War Diary.

4.11.39
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.
(SS.NEW YORK).

Dispositions to intercept German SS. NEW YORK (22337t) reported having sailed southwards from Tromsoe at 1425/2/11 (C-in-C H.F.0810/3, Adty. 1143/3).

(a) BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, MATABELE to rendezvous with GLASGOW off Stadtlandt (62° 10'N) at 0800/4/11, No sign of the NEW YORK was seen (GLASGOW 1621/14).
(b) C-in-C H.F. with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 8 destroyers to arrive in same area 1200/4/11.
Special air searches extending parallel to the Norwegian coast in connection with the dispositions to intercept the SS. NEW YORK.

Clyde Defence.
Blyth Defence.
Northern Patrol.

See Adty 2138/4. Adty. to provide two 2 pdr. guns (Air Min. 1925/4).
Between Orkneys and Faroes - 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland- 3 cruisers, 1 AMC,
In Denmark Strait - 3 AMC's
A London flying boat based on Manela (Shetland Is.) is reported missing. Search ordered by 5 Northern Patrol cruisers: GLASGOW, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, MATABELE: special air search etc.

East Coast Defence

Observer Corps at Shoeburyness reported noises like a fast motor boat at 2110/4. Subsequently these were picked up by E/DF and Fighter Command fixed position as 51° 30'N, 0° 49'30" E, 1½ miles NW Nore Light V., course ENE at 2212/4 (C-in-C Nore 2246/4). C-in-C Nore ordered an A/S trawler to the position and the 3 destroyers on patrol off Harwich to watch exits to Thames approaches.
A minesweeping operation in this area was ordered for daylight 5/11.

Air Reconnaissance

Normal air patrols with special search to cover the Dogger Bank s/m patrol lines.
See also **Home Fleet** above.

16th D.F.

Proposed reorganisation of 16th Destroyer Flotilla (C-in-C Portsmouth 1415/3).

Convoys

ON 1 (First Scandinavian Methil to Bergen) Convoy left 1710 (Adty. 0227/5) escorted by 4 destroyers reinforced by CURLEW from daylight 5/11. Air escort was provided (RA. (D) H.F.1207/4). (The proposal to start these convoys as soon as escorts and covering forces became available was made by Adty. 1348/23/10)

CITY OF FLINT.

British Consul, Bergen, was told he could inform the master confidentially of arrangements for convoy HN1 (Bergen to Methil) and advise him to keep to northward (Adty. 1433/4)

GERMAN MERCHANTMEN.

Master of S.S. Adriatic reports the following at Murmansk 3/11 :- BREMEN, CORDILLERA, S. LOUIS, PHOENICIA, WILHELMA RIEDEMAN, FRIEDRICH BREME (Tromsoe 1125/8)

NEUENFELS.

German ship NEUENFELS left Narvik night 4/11 loaded with ore (LC 991 d 29)

War Diary.

4.11.39
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. (SS.NEW YORK).

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NEUENFELS.

German ship NEUENFELS left Narvik night 4/11 loaded with ore (IC 0860/39) See 9/11

5.11.39.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-boats reported

0444 Reliable D/F fix enemy unit probably U-boat 47° 30' N. 8° 45' W. (Adty.1028/5)

0530 Danish SS TEKLA sighted U-boat 4 miles S.E. Flamborough Head on surface. JUNO searched but did not obtain contact. (C. in C. Rosyth 1052/6)

0130 Master of Greek SS ZEUS reported what he believed was a German s/m in 49° 54' N. 3° 2' W. exhibiting the Casquets light, 3 flashes every 30 seconds. Master very definite in his opinion (N.O. 1. Ramsgate 1810/7)

1013 Reliable D/F fix enemy unit 55° 11' N. 4° 26' E.

? time D/F bearing obtained of one s/m 150 miles S.W. Ushant, ACASTA, ESCAPADE, VERSATILE, GRENVILLE searched.

1159 Reliable D/F fix unknown enemy unit 54° 20' N. 6° 10' E. (Adty. 1240/5)

1221 Reliable fix of unknown enemy unit 57° 0' N. 3° 10' E. (Adty. 1240/5)

1500 U-boat reported 180° Eddystone 30 miles (IC.0261/39) by Dutch steamer 35 miles south of Eddystone? Doubtful (C. in C. W A 1213/6)

Estimated positions of U-boats.

One off Norwegian Coast
One off Lowestoft
One in Channel
Four in Western Approaches
One off West coast of Spain.

War Diary.

5.11.1939.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Force L.

Your 0054/4. Request whether Force L should act under my orders while on A. & W. I. Station in place of Forces F and Y. Proposals for YORK, PERTH, HUNTER, HYPERION, HOTSPUR, HAVOCK AND SAGUENAY. Escort ships to continue to patrol off Curacao and Aruba supplemented as necessary by Jamaica Force. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1652/5).
Your 1652/5. Force L should operate under your orders while on station. Force Y will not proceed to West Indies. Commitments for Canadian Expeditionary Force in December, requirements. (D.O.D.(F), 1832/6).

South Atlantic.

Force G.

Reported that all German capital ships and cruisers are in home waters and opportunity should be taken to rest Force G. CUMBERLAND should proceed Falklands and EXETER return for further period of rest. After a week at Falklands, EXETER and CUMBERLAND should relieve ACHILLES and AJAX in Rio and Plate area respectively about 21/11, both 6-in. cruisers then proceeding Falklands for one week's rest. (C. in C., S.A., to Cdre.Comdg. S.A. Div., 1217/5).
In view of Admiralty's 1334/4, cancel my 1217/5.
(C. in C., S.A., to Cdre.Cmdg.S.A.Div., 1635/5).

War Diary.

(X)

5.11.39.
Sunday.

CITY OF FLINT — The CITY OF FLINT is still at Bergen (Reuters Oslo)

Enemy a/c's — 1600 SALMON in position 53° 28'N 4°5'E sighted 12 enemy biplanes (R.A.(S) 1341/8)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Reported that German Condor pilots left Cadiz for the Canary Is. 1/11 in Spanish ship PLUS ULTRA (DNI 1046/5). Refuted (NCSO Las Palmas 1115/7)

DEUTSCHLAND — See Enemy Intelligence, Home Commands.

South Atlantic

UHENFELS captured. — The German liner UHENFELS (7603t) which sailed from Lourenço Marquez disguised as a Dutch ship on a third attempt to get away was sighted by ARK ROYAL'S A/C 1524/5 in 6° 0'N 17° 30'W and was captured by the HEREWARD (boarding party under Sub-Lieutenant A.H. Pierce R.N.R.) 1900/5 300 miles WSW of Freetown, Sierra Leone and taken to Freetown 7/11 (RA(A-C) 0531/6 SO(I) Freetown 1029/7.)
To be sent to U.K. (Adty. 1120/17) Movements to be kept secret.

Hunting Group — On 4/11 Admiralty gave orders that arrangements were to be made to provide a hunting group of high endurance on east coast of South America (Adty. 1334/4) Forces G (†CUMBERLAND, EXETER) and H were ordered to exchange areas (C-in-C S.A. 1910/5)

America & West Indies

WARSPITE from Gibraltar and 3 minelaying s/m's from Home Waters being ordered to Halifax to provide convoy escorts (cf. Convoys 26/10)

DANMARK. — Stopping of, see Home Commands.

China

Positions of French Warships — SUFFREN (Cr.) left Saigon for Singapore.

L'ESPOIR (s/m) left Singapore for Colombo.

Escort vessels required elsewhere. — Vessels which can be released (C.in.C. China 1155/5 in reply to Adty. 0114/4)

War Diary

5.11.39.
Sunday

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

German minefield off Falsterbo

Extension of German minefield off Falsterbo to within 3 miles of Swedish coast was formally announced on 5/11, but German broadcasts on 8/11 at 1105 from Norddeich and 2154 from Rügen gave the area without comment in its original shape, i.e. free of the Swedish shipping channel. (Note Since 1879 the Swedes claim that their territorial waters extend to 4 miles from the coast.) This may be in response to Swedish representation, or it may be a routine re-broadcast made in ignorance of the extension.

Limits of the minefield, corrected figures given in German broadcast 7/11:-

55° 19.5'N, 13° 00'E
55° 14.0'N, 13° 00'E
55° 0.4'N, 12° 00'E
55° 5.5'N, 12° 50.5'E
55° 15.5'N, 12° 46'E
55° 18.7'N, 12° 46'E
55° 20.5'N, 12° 53.4'E
55° 19.75'N, 12° 54.8'E

Enemy Dispositions

Ships believed to be in North Sea area 5/11:- SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, SPEE, HIPPER, NÜRNBERG, EMDEN.

Schnell boats.

Reported that 18 wireless controlled Schnell boats with their controlling ships are at Wesermünde. (IC 0263/39)

Aircraft concentration

Heavy concentrations of German aircraft at operational bases in Bremen area 3/11, 4/11 and at Flensburg, Cuxhaven, Sylt, early 5/11. (NA Copenhagen 1430/5.) Cf Air Activity 7/11.

German merchant ships

Unconfirmed report only moderately reliable received by NA Madrid that 2 German merchant ships left Vigo during the night 5/11 with names painted out (?LEANDER 989t and TANGER)(IC 0261/39)

ELIZA

It is reported that the Polish members of the crew of the German cargo vessel ELIZA (1000t) sailing from Antwerp 6/11 intend to mutiny and bring the ship to the Thames. Orders have been given for Polish destroyers to be ready to bring her to Ramsgate if she appears. (C-in-C Nore 2254/5) No German vessel of this name is known to Lloyds nor have they knowledge of any German ship of this tonnage at present at Antwerp. (IC 0260/39) See LIZA 17/11

DEUTSCHLAND

The Captain of the CITY OF FLINT states that the DEUTSCHLAND probably refuels off Northern Spain (NCSO Bergen 1300/5)

U-Boat Patrol

It is reported that U-boat maintains constant patrol off Hanstholm (RA(S)1738/5)

German m.v's captured

For figures of captures of German ships see D.S.64, 7/11/39.

5.11.39
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — Search for German SS. NEW YORK has been abandoned. Last known position of C-in-C Home Fleet was in the Stadtlanded area at 1600/4. BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, MATABELE are returning to Scapa to refuel. GLASGOW is returning to Rosyth.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes	2	cruisers	
" Faroes and Iceland	2	"	1 AMC
In Denmark Strait	1	"	2 "

East Coast Defence. — Redistribution of destroyers has been ordered, leaving 7th Destroyer Flotilla at Grimsby and 22nd Destroyer Flotilla (KEITH, BOADICEA and 3 Polish destroyers) at Harwich. The other destroyers concentrated at Grimsby and Harwich on 29/10 are returning to their normal commands (vide 29/10) (DOD (H) 1936/5)

Dogger Bank s/m Patrol. — This is being withdrawn.

Air Reconnaissances. — Few air patrols were carried out owing to severe weather conditions (Adty. 1959/5)
In addition to normal air reconnaissances:-
(1) Hudson battle flight to intercept enemy aircraft carrying out reported regular patrol 110 ~~160~~ miles East of Buchan Ness.
(2) One Hudson along Dutch coast.

Air-raid warnings — Re-passing of intercepts from Kirkwall D/F to ACOS (ACOS1445/5, Adty. 1947/6)

Allocation of A/S Trawlers. — See Special Secret Branch Acquaints 250/7,261.

Casualty.
NORTHERN ROVER — Armed Trawler NORTHERN ROVER (655t) failed to return from patrol. Last seen 30/10. Ship's company 4 officers, 23 ratings. (Loss announced 10/11) See 10/11.

DANMARK — Tanker DANMARK (Danish) was stopped by 2 German destroyers 6 miles north of Hirshal's light. (SO(I) Kingston Jamaica 2010/8)

U.S. Neutrality Act. — This was signed on the night 4/5 November and a Proclamation was issued 5/11.

WEATHER

0500

North Sea Wind SE Gale force in North, moderate in area Humber-Thames. Visibility moderate with rain
Horns Reef Wind SE gale force, visibility moderate to poor. Sky overcast with rain.
Channel Wind WNW strong to gale force visibility moderate and poor in eastern area.
Western Approaches Wind NW strong Visibility moderate

Further outlook. Unsettled. Westerly gale spreading to North Sea.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-boats reported.

0945 U-boat below surface steering 140° position YXAA10 11 (homeward bound) (SEA LION 0945/6) Vide Attacks.

1200 coast watcher sighted s/m 5 miles SE Scarinish, Isle of Tiree going east (C-in-C Rosyth 1235/6)

1841 Casa Blanca reported one unknown s/m ?S of Santiago Course North (S.O.(I) Gib. 1621/7)

South Atlantic

1400 s/m (?French) sighted SE of San Nicholas I., C. Verde Is., (cf. 7/11) (Lisbon 1734/8)

A. & W. I.

Enemy s/m reported by fishermen in 51° 40'N 56° 23'W (H.Q. Ottawa 1021/9)

s/m reported by S.H. SHERMAN 3 miles off Reculver Bay, Belle Isle Strait (Canadian SO(I) Halifax 1130/9)

s/m's attacked.

0931 SEA LION made unsuccessful attack on s/m 55° 10'N 2° 10'E with 6 torpedoes in bad weather conditions (RA(S) 1341/8)

War Diary. 6.11.39.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

There have been several reports of activities, apparently preliminary to putting to sea, by German merchant ships sheltering in Japanese and N.E.I. ports.

Australia.

U-boat and raider bases. Reports that there are possible U-boat and raider bases in the Pacific islands, possibly in the Japanese Mandated Islands, (DNI 1855/6)(See 15/11.)

South Atlantic

ANATOLIA
NIENBURG

German ships ANATOLIA and NIENBURG lying at Buenos Aires roadstead are reported to have steam up and taken stores and fresh water. (N-A. Buenos Aires 1920/4) Dispositions ordered in consequence (Cdre. S.A. 1057/7)

LONDONDERRY and AUCKLAND to return to U.K. (Adty. 0129/6, 1333/7)

War Diary

6.11.39

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

WELHEIM — German ship WELHEIM with 5500 tons of grain from Central America arrived at Delfzyl. She made the trip via Iceland and down the Norwegian and Danish coasts.

German merchant ships routes. — Delfzyl is steadily assuming increasing importance, as it is the only Dutch port which can still be used by German mercantile shipping. Vessels from the Baltic pass through the Kiel Canal and down inside Borkum and Norderney whose batteries cover them (Exchange Tel. Amsterdam)

5 destroyers and 2 cruisers observed 1 mile south of Borkum 1400 (Adty. 1750/6)

German Contraband Control, Baltic. — Possible that Germany is using small merchant vessels in neutral territorial waters as part of the Baltic control system (Kristiansands THI 1340/6)

MONTAN — German merchant ship MONTAN cargo unknown left Dordrecht for Rotterdam 1600 probably for sea. (C-in-C Rotterdam 1630/6)

Warships sighted — South of Borkum. See 7/11.

WEATHER

0500

North Sea	Wind	SE	gale force	Visibility	moderate with mist.
Horns Reef	"	SE	gale force	"	moderate with rain.
Channel	"	SW	strong	"	poor
Western Approaches	"	S	strong	"	moderate with rain.

Further outlook. Wind moderating slowly.

War Diary

6.11.39.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 11 destroyers arrive in position 50 miles North of Shetlands at 0830 to cover the first outward bound Scandinavian Convoy ONI, which will then be east of the Shetlands escorted by CURLEW and 4 Destroyers.

Northern Patrol — Between Orkneys and Faroes 3 cruisers
" Faroes and Iceland 2 " 1 AMC
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser and 2 AMC's

Air Defence of Rosyth — A.A. cruisers CALCUTTA and CAIRO arrive Rosyth from Humber 0800 to strengthen the air defences of Rosyth. Memo including the latest policy agreed upon between Admiralty and Fighter Command has been prepared (C-in-C Rosyth 1021/6)

Dogger Bank s/m Patrol — 0931 SEA LION unsuccessfully attacked U-boat with 6 torpedoes. Weather conditions bad. (RA(S)1341/8)

Enemy a/c's — Unidentified a/c reported approx. 25 miles E.S.E. of Outer Dowsing Light flying very high on westerly course (IC 0260/39). Other a/c's were reported off Norfolk coast and near the outward bound Norwegian Convoy off Kinnaird Head (IC 0260/39). In the early forenoon at least 3 German a/c's were reported in the southern area of the North Sea, carrying out meterological flights (IC 0260/39)

A.M.C.'s — Urgent need for A.M.C.'s Working up programmes to be limited (Adty. 1841/6) See also(Adty. 1339/4) Proposal to work up at Portsmouth not Scapa (VANP 1814/5).

Convoys — Convoys much delayed by gales (Adty. 0800/6)
FS33 (Firth of Forth to Thames) cancelled owing to small number of ships waiting to sail (C-in-C Rosyth 1108/6)
HX6 (Halifax to UK) consisting of 52 ships escorted by RESOLUTION is being met at daylight 6/11 by 8 destroyers from the Western Approaches.

Kite balloon trials — Cruiser required early next week for kite balloon trials (Adty. 1525/6) (The trials were, however, postponed until the week commencing 20/11

Position of French ships — 0720 MILAN (Cr.) passed Gibraltar E to W.

War Diary.

Enemy Intelligence (contd.) — Kiel a Baltic Kirkwall. Norwegian Government for war purposes prepared to recognise 3-mile limit without prejudice to 4-mile limit peace claim, to save controversy with belligerents (N.A.Oslo 1700/7).

CITY OF FLINT — Not sailing today (Adty 1149/7 Bergen 1620/7).

WEATHER.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE. — German ship RIO GRANDE preparing to sail (Rio G.do Sul 1600/6).

America and West Indies.

Raiders — From evidence given by survivors of s.s.CLEMENT and STONEGATE the possibility of two pocket battleships having been at large in the Atlantic cannot be disregarded (I.C.0261/39)

Cableship. — Cable ship JOHN W.MACKAY effecting repairs estimated at 10 to 14 days to cables off Nova Stotia and Newfoundland. Sailed 1630 zone Time + 4/8/11 (C.O.C.Halifax 1702/8). Cover for her (Adty 1632/5, C.in C. A.W.I. 2000/6).

Convoys. — Routing to Halifax for convoy of ships of speed 9 to 15 knots bound from Caribbean Sea ports to Mediterranean (S.O.(I) Kingston 1600/6, C.in C. A.W.I. 1938/7).

East Indies.

LIEBENFELS. — Now stated that no German ship at Massawa is transmitting on her W/T. D/F watch being maintained at Ismailia and Yafa watch at Sarafand for present (S.O.(I) Alexandria) see also 31/10.

POSITIONS OF FRENCH SHIPS.

Mediterranean. — FOCH, LAGALISSONNIERE, LION (Cruisers) passed Gibraltar East to West 1800 (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1802/7).

S.Atlantic. — EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER arrived Mauritius and left same day for Reunion (Mauritius 1205/7).

A. & W.I. — SIDI FERRUCH arrived Trinidad 0800 (S.N.O. Trinidad 1601/7).

China. — SUFFREN arrived Singapore (S.O.(I) Singapore 1901/7).

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

0600 Submarine (?French) sighted N.E. of San Nicholas Is. Cape Verde Is. (Lisbon 1734/8) C.f.1400/6.

0015 57° 30' N. 5° 30' E. position approx. (I.C.0281/39)

0734 55° 30' N. 7° 0' E. position approx. (I.C.0261/39)

0545 Fishing drifter saw submarine quite close 8 miles E.S.E. Corton Lt.V. steering S.E. (F.O. in Charge Harwich 1305/7).

0935 Reliable D/F fix unknown enemy unit 55° 18' N. 5° 8' E. (Adty 1007/7).

1400 Unreliable fix of enemy unit 58° 50' N. 4° 0' E. (Adty 1425/7).

0129 Off Brest, doubtful (C.in C. W.A. 0844/7).

1240 48° N. 9° 18' W. (170 miles W. of Brest) position unreliable (I.C.0262/39).

One in eastern part of North Sea homeward bound (I.C. 0261/39).

Intelligence. Possible that some of the U-boats recently operating in the Western Approaches are now on way home (I.C.0261/39).

Submarines attacked.

1003 GRENADE attacking contact (GRENADE 1003/7) 39 depth charges dropped. No visible result (GRENADE 1018/7, 1126/7) am not certain my position accurate (GRENADE 1334/7). Position 49° 36' N. 5° 29' W. (Captain (D) 12 1758/7) GRENADE, EXMOUTH, WREN hunting s/m 49° 37' N. 5° 20' W. (C.in C. W.A. 1043/7, 1145/7).

War Diary.

Air Activity.

First aircraft torpedo attack. Heavy concentrations of bombing aircraft in Bremen area (N.A. Copenhagen 1430/7) (c.f. Enemy Intelligence 5/11).

At 0810 an enemy seaplane fired a torpedo at the Polish destroyer BLYSKAVICA from a position 1000 yards on port bow. Torpedo was avoided by altering course and seaplane was engaged but not brought down (BLYSKAVICA 0900/7). Position of attack 70 miles East of Lowestoft. This is the first aircraft torpedo attack of the war.

At 1045 26 the 5th S/M Flotilla were attacked with bombs by one enemy aircraft off Humber. No hits. (M01 4013/39 Report of an engagement of 5th S/M Flotilla with enemy a/c.)

At 1155/7 s/m SEAL returning from Dogger Bank patrol and while waiting for CACHALOT and s/m L.26 off Orfordness was unsuccessfully bombed by enemy seaplane (SEAL 1155/7).

At 1115 an enemy reconnaissance aircraft, probably Heinkel bomber, was sighted over Sullum Voe (D.C.N.S.) but no attack developed (F.O.C. 7 C.S. 1517/7) (But re time see F.O.C. 7 C.S. 1045/7).

Casualties. 2045 COSSACK in collision with s.s.BORONWICK head on 135° May I, 2 miles (COSSACK 2042/7, 2345/7, 2104/7, C.in C. Rosyth 2110/7, 2129/7, 0129/8).

H.28 defect until 11/11 (Captain (S) 5 1458/7).

Air Reconnaissances.

Over Borkum. The special air reconnaissance ordered over Borkum returned without sighting any German surface warships. (See below).
Normal air searches were carried out, with additional A/S searches East of the Fair I. Channel and to cover Convoy HNI.

Enemy Intelligence. At 1400/6 a reconnaissance aircraft sighted 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers at anchor one mile south of Borkum Island. This was reported by the pilot on landing at 1500 but the news did not reach the Admiralty until 1800/6. A search was carried out at daylight 7/11 and bombers stood by.

German Trawlers. It is reported that German trawlers are fishing in Icelandic waters under Scandinavian flags (V.A.N.P.2215/7).

Germany to buy Russian Submarines. Reported purchase by Germany from Russia of 40 submarines. Reason to believe crews can be provided (N.A.Hague 1242/7) Admiralty consider this unlikely pending confirmation (Adty.).

PORTO ALEGRE CURITYBA. Reported that these two German ships recently arrived at Hamburg (N.S.C.O.Antwerp 1159/7).

Baltic. Norwegian opinion that extension of minefield to Falsterbo is endeavour of the Germans to make

War Diary.

7.11.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 11 destroyers will be in position 50 miles N.E. of Shetlands at 0830. To cover the homeward bound Scandinavian Convoy HN1 which sailed from the Norwegian coast at 1700/7, (it was delayed, Admiralty 1757/6) escorted by CURLEW, EDINBURGH and 4 destroyers. Special air cover was arranged.

SOUTHAMPTON due at Rosyth 0745 from Northern Patrol.
BELFAST is on passage from Rosyth to Clyde.
GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD, AURORA at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes	3 cruisers		
Between Faroes and Iceland	2 cruisers	1 A.M.C.	
In Denmark Strait	1 cruiser	2 A.M.Cs.	

A.M.Cs. RAWALPINDI, AURANIA, ASTURIAS have all reported their guns require lifting. This is a matter of urgency if Patrol is to be maintained fully.

Clyde Examination Anchorage and Defence. F.O.I. Clyde 1115/7. See also 4/11.

Convoys

Scandinavian. O.N.I. (first outward Scandinavian Convoy) arrived at Aspo Ford from Bergen 1600/7.

H.N.I. (first homeward bound Scandinavian Convoy) is due to leave Aspo Ford at 1700/7. Norwegian Admiral refuses to permit ships to leave defended areas during dark hours (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1430/6).

Halifax. H.X.6. (Halifax to United Kingdom) (52 ships) has split. Both sections are escorted by 3 destroyers. RESOLUTION has left the convoy and is proceeding direct to Plymouth, but owing to bad weather does not expect to arrive until 1330.

Gibraltar. H.G.5A. (Gibraltar to United Kingdom) homeward bound had some difficulty in making the Downs in bad weather with strong tide rip.
S.S. CITY OF MELBOURNE grounded on South Goodwins.

Halifax. H.X.F.7. (Halifax to United Kingdom fast) was 24 hours late owing to bad weather. At 1500/7 only 4 of the 13 ships comprising the convoy were in company (ASTURIAS 1500/7). ASTURIAS escorting sustained minor damage requiring dockyard repair.

War Diary 8. 11. 39.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

s/m's reported.

0220 S/m reported 6 miles E.N.E. Hartlepool (C. in C. Rosyth 0608/8) GRIMSBY and FLAMINGO searched. No result (?).

0900 58° N. 7° E. course N.W. 700 ton s/m. (IC 0265/39).

1500 U-boat passed Little Belt (course not stated) (IC 0263/39). Grounded for 3 hours refloated itself (N.A. Copenhagen 1830/8).

1633 St. Margaret's Bay, crossing on loop reported (V.A.//.Dover 1801/8).

? time. S/m seen by SS ETHYLENE (C. in C. Rosyth 0820/9)

S/m's attacked.

1722 DUNEDIN and DIOMEDE reported feather of s/m in Yell Sound, Shetland Is. KELLY and KANDAHAR investigated. DUNEDIN dropped 1 d/c. Air search arranged from Wick (IC 0263/39).

War Diary

8.11.39

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued)

Staff, Far East 0940 Z/11). Repairs, mails, (Cdre. Hong Kong 0356 Z/14) Japanese explanations etc. (Shanghai 0722/16, Hong Kong 0915/16).

MEDITERRANEAN.

Contraband Control. Italian ships. N.A. Rome reports that the Italians are examining the practicability of escorting all Italian merchant shipping by man of war, with the object of avoiding search by our contraband control. (N.A. Rome 1953/7). Italian annoyance at delay caused to their ships at Gibraltar (53 Gemova Italmar 2345 1300 from M.C. 3 a±1) see also 26/10,14/11.

Positions of French ships. Escorteurs BALISTE and LA POURSUIVANTE arrived Gibraltar from Toulon.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Enemy Intelligence

UCKERMARX.
TANNENFELS. — These two German merchant ships are at Kisimayu repainting and disguised as Dutch and Japanese liners. (C. in C. E.I/0731Z/8)

ASKARI
KIONGA — Also at Kisimayu (-do-)

LAHN — German sailors ex FRIESLAND and DUSSELDORF joined German SS LAHN at Concepcion, replacing Chinese (Concepcion 1715/8).

North Atlantic.

Possible enemy ship (not U-boat) in area Azores - Canary Is. (Riviere 1057/8).

America ~~Atlantic~~ & West Indies

Force L. — Force L. to operate generally in the region of vital routes and areas as follows:- (C. in C. A.W.1 2058/7)

Positions of French ships — SIDI FERRUCH (s/m) sailed for patrol 1000 (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1245/8)

East Indies.

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Interrogation of masters of CLEMENT and STONEGATE now indicates that they were probably sunk by different ships. Overdue ships in South Atlantic combined with signal that unknown ship was gunned 22/10 in 16° S. (? 26° S) 4° 30' E. indicates that sinkings of British ships may have taken place since that of CLEMENT on 30/9. Raider responsible, believed to be ADMIRAL SCHEER may have worked round Cape and may appear on Aden Colombo trade route about 10/11. Forces I and J should be in readiness (Adty. 1841/8).

China.

Re. river gunboats. Guard below barrier. (C. in C. China 1129/8).

DARDANUS — Imperial Airways Liner DARDANUS, Hong Kong to Bangkok was forced to land on Gweichan I., Gulf of Tonkin, by Japanese fighters. (C. in C. China 1235/8). Result of first interview Japanese authorities state plane probably disregarded standing instructions. Investigation being made. (Naval Liaison Officer. Shanghai 1732H/8, C. in C. China, 0620/12). Narrative of events (Consul, Canton, 2111/10) 1257Z/10, 0659/13, 0324Z/14, N.L.O. Shanghai, 09052/10, 1447/9, C. in C. China 1202 Z/10, 0459 Z/10, 0820 Z/12, Chief of Intell.

Staff/

War Diary

8.11.39.

Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Suspicious Vessel.

1855. Small fishing vessel with Danish flag painted on both sides reported acting suspiciously in Swarbacks Minn 60° 20' N. 1° 25' W. (L.O.C. Orkneys and Shetlands 0830/9)

War Diary

8.11.39.

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Convoys

Convoy FN 33 (Thames to Firth of Forth) was located by enemy a/c's. at 0015 and attack by surface craft is possible. 0630 Convoy was abreast Cromer, speed 8 knots. 22nd Destroyer Flotilla to join convoy from astern after daylight to reinforce escort (C. in C. Nore. 0137/8).

German A.A. Patrols.

There are indications within the last two or three days that German anti-aircraft patrol vessels have been extended down the Dutch coast. (IC. 0264/39).

Casualties.

GRENADE and GRENVILLE in collision in Devonport harbour during night 7/8. Stem of GRENADE twisted and fore peak flooded; starboard side of GRENVILLE holed below water line and No. 3 boiler room flooded (A.CW.A. 1058/8).
BLYSKAWICA and GROM (Polish destroyers) fouled buoy at Harwich. GROM'S port propeller is damaged. BLYSKAWICA will be docked for examination on completion of GROM.
KELLY plating damaged by rough weather. Ship seaworthy provided not required to steam at high speed in rough weather.

Camouflage of ships.

C. in C. Home Fleet has instructed ships to lay their awnings, painted grey, if necessary, over their wooden decks when in harbour. Considered impracticable with present weather conditions to paint decks. Solignum stain may be most practical answer. (1401/8) This was in consequence of a report by a/c's. that decks showed up from the air in misty weather.

New Swedish Channel

Reported that Sweden is dredging a new channel within 3 mile limit off Falsterbo (N.A. Oslo, 1510/8).

RITA

Swedish SS. RITA (3000 tons) carrying cellulose was captured by German warship near Falsterbo (Reuter, Stockholm).

OTAVA.

Finnish SS. OTAVA (1290 tons) was brought into Swedish territorial waters outside Sundsvale but not into harbour. She left 2 hours later when weather improved (B.U.P. Stockholm)

Scandinavian Air Line

Proposed joint Swedish and Norwegian Air Line, Stavanger to Scotland, using Perth as terminal. No Admiralty objection (H.O. of M.0101/8).

Positions of French ships

1200. 2 patrol vessels 50 miles North of C. Ortegal course 210°.
2 patrol vessels on patrol 40 miles North of Vigo. See also Medtn. and A.W.1.

War Diary

8. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 10 destroyers are covering convoy HN1 (vide 7/4) C. in C. NELSON is due to arrive Rosyth 0700/9. A.C.Q. HOOD arrives Plymouth a.m. 11/11.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes ... ... 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland .. ... 3 "
1 A.M.C.
In Denmark Strait ... ... 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C.

Netherbutton.

Netherbutton machinery reported in working order p.m. (A.C. Orkneys and Shetlands 1505/8).

Blyth Sanctuary

To be reinstated from 0700/8 (R.A.(S)1403/7).

Air Reconnaissances

In addition to normal air reconnaissance the following searches are being carried out :-
(1) Hudson battle flight to intercept enemy a/c carrying out reported regular patrol 110 miles East of Buchan Ness.
(2) One Hudson along Dutch coast.
(3) Continuous patrol at mouth of Firth of Forth by one Hudson.

Air Activity

0015 an enemy a/c was picked up by the R.D.F. approaching Harwich. This a/c circled round in the vicinity and passed over Convoy F.N.33 (Thames to Firth of Forth). C. in C. Nore sent out all available destroyers from Harwich (3 Polish destroyers) to counter any sudden surface attack (Vide Convoys below).
1110 A/S trawler BRADMAN was attacked by a/c's off Smith's Knoll (30 miles East of Lowestoft) (Humber Radio 1235/8) 1310, Three coasting steamers reported being attacked by one enemy a/c south of the entrance to the Humber.
1108 One Anson 40 miles West of Terschelling was attacked by one German a/c, probably a Heinkel 115. The German was shot down, spun into the sea and broke up.
1145. One Anson attacked an enemy flying boat (D.O. 18) 100 miles E. by N. of Humber.
Enemy was last sighted going down with smoke issuing from starboard wing (D.C.N.S.) OIC 9/11 says "Two Dornier flying boats 90 miles East of Flamborough Head (IC. 0263/39).

Positions of British s/ms.

Positions of s/ms. 0700/8 and movements for following 24 hours (IC.0262/39).
A. One in 2 G.C.T. 4000 for Rosyth.
B. One in Zone "C" Two.
C. One in approx. V.L.J.N.
D. One in Q.S.C.T. 3000 for Zone "C" One.
E. One in Zone "P"
F. One in Zone "R"
G. Six arriving Portsmouth from Eastward.

Train Ferries.

Time table of Harwich - Calais train ferries. (N.O. i/c Harwich 1100/8)

WAR DIARY. 9.11.39
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Ships Attacked. CARMARTHEN COAST.

0720 Unknown steamer sinking just south of Seaham Harbour (Cullercoats Radio THI 10830/9). This was the CARMARTHEN COAST (961 tons) sunk probably by mine 4 miles East of Seaham while under helm turning to approach Tyne examination anchorage. Three moored mines on surface were seen by Captain when abandoning ship. At 0937/9 M/S and A/S Trawlers swept the area but so far nothing has been found. Position was 54° 50' N. 1° 12½' W. (C.in C. Rosyth 1039/9). 2K, 4 injured.

Submarines Reported.

1000 ASHANTIAN in convoy OB 230 sighted submarine 48° 27' N. 15° 40' W. (Lands End Radio) ECLIPSE ordered to attack (C.in C. W.A.1245/9).

0646

1245 Submarine sighted 250 miles S.W. Fastnet. BROKE and ECLIPSE searched.

1340 Coast watchers sighted submarine in Yell Sound. (cf. DUNEDIN and DIOMEDE sighting one there 8/11) 3 destroyers and aircraft searched. (See below)

1745 Trawler WARWICK DEEPING sighted submarine 30° Bull Point, Bristol Channel, 7 miles (C.in C.W.A. 2307/9).

Submarines attacked.

1550 Aircraft dropped bomb on supposed submarine in Yell Sound 60° 25' N. 1° 8' W. No definite result (I.C.0264/39).

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

S.Atlantic. 2300 Submarine appeared 25 miles North of Ceara. Reliable. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1925/11) Later found to be H.M.S. SEVERN (S.O.(I) Freetown 1201/15).

LAHN (see also 14/11 and TACOMA. ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Report from Concepcion, Chile that German s.s. LAHN (7000 tons) and TACOMA left 2130/9, to be met by ADMIRAL SCHEER (Concepcion 1106/9, D.T.D. 1253/10 LAHN left Talcahuano, making surprise sailing (?10/11) for ?Hamburg after taking in coal, supplies etc. from German FRANKFURT also at Talcahuano (intercepted cable from Barbados 0815 to Controller Commander in London / Admiralty with sailing 0300/11 (But CW255 Santiago to Chile 35/11/1109 says LAHN and TACOMA sailed 9/11) Have been informed both vessels departed for southern channel of Chile (Concepcion 1130/13) N.C.S.O. Valparaiso says LAHN and TACOMA left Talcahuano 0500 G.M.T. 10/11 destination unknown.

DIEP. German ship DIEP preparing to leave Coquimbo (Valparaiso 1630/9).

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

50 seamen from German ships BOLLWERK and ANTONIO DELFINO sent from Bahia to Pernambuco and distributed among 3 German ships in that port (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1727/9).

BAHIA BLANCA. German ship BAHIA BLANCA loaded and preparing to leave Rio de Janeiro (N.C.S.O. Rio 1440/8).

H.M.Ships fuelling on Argentine coast. Argentine Government no objection to H.M.Ships fuelling in San Borombon Bay. Fear that German submarine may appear in Buenos Aires area to attack meat ships (C.in C. S.A.1227/8).

U-boat bases. Following reported as possible U-boat bases this time of year (Asst.N.A. Rio and C.in C. S.A. 1812/9):- Pitilinga 5° 24' S. 35° 20' W, West Mxoihu, Punta de Mallaque, Bahia Firmosa, Bahia de Traicao, Ilha de Itamaraca 07° 49' S, 34° 47' W.

CHINA

NORDMARK. German ship NORDMARK (arrived Batavia 2/9) disguised as Dutch ship BINTANG and no longer has black, white and red on funnels. W/T is sealed and Dutch police visit ship daily (D.N.I.1205/9).

Patrols off Japanese coast. Patrols off Japanese coasts owing to failure of Japanese to immobilise German ships (C.in C.China 1144/9, Mr.Craigie, Hong Kong 9/11/39).

MUNLOCK S.S. MUNLOCK boarded by Japanese destroyer WAKABA (C.in C.China 1143/9, Cdre, Hong Kong 0392/13).

WAR DIARY. 9.11.39
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

MEDITERRANEAN.

M.T.Bs. VULCAN and 12 M.T.Bs. of 1st Flotilla ordered to return to U.K. as soon as possible, M.T.Bs. via French ports to Marseilles thence by inland waters to Le Havre and Portsmouth; VULCAN in first convenient convoy (D.O.D.1423/9). M.T.B.6 was sunk on the way. see 16/11. The M.T.B's were to be used for night patrol work on East Coast of U.K.

French Ships. 2 destroyers sailing westbound from Gibraltar 1715 (F.O.C., N.A.1715/9).
TARTU and VAUQUELIN (Cruisers) arrived Gibraltar (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1902/9).
BALISTE and LA POURSUIVANTE and torpedo boats left Gibraltar for Casablanca 1700/9 (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1804/9).

NORTH ATLANTIC.

Leakage of Information. H.M. Consul, Funchal, after interview with Governor of Madeira, re leakage of information concerning movements of shipping calling at Funchal, convinced that method used is private W/T transmitter so far undetected (HMC Funchal 2210/9) See also 2/11.
German ship KLAUS SCHOKE transferred cargo at Horta to HEOSTEIN (Norwegian). Many Norwegian ships carrying petrol alledgedly for France call at Azores and slip out only during bad weather (C.in C. A.W./1110/9).

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES.

DEUTSCHLAND. DEUTSCHLAND reported 35° 20' N. 28° 56' W. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0935/11, D.N.I.2131/11).

TYRIFJORD (see also 4/11) Norwegian tanker TYRIFJORD reported stopped by raider believed to be DEUTSCHLAND and on 12/11 Force L was ordered to search along HXF8 convoy route (S.N.O. Force L 1704/9, Adty 1533/2 C.in C. A.W.I.2048/12). First cruise of Force L to begin noon from Halifax, in region of vital routes (C.in C. A.W.I. 2058/7).

YORK defects. YORK delayed by defects at Bermuda; not available to return to Halifax Force and to provide cover for cable ships (C.in C. A.W.I.2022/9).

Oilers at Bermuda. Re oilers at Bermuda in view of arrival of Force L on A.W.I. Station (C.in C. A.W.I.2153/8).

FRIESLAND LEIPZIG. International Petroleum Co. is expecting to be asked to supply gas oil to German vessel FRIESLAND at Paiva and to LEIPZIG and one other of those in Callao (Mr.Forbes, Lima 69/9).

ABBEYDALE Oiler ABBEYDALE 5 days overdue (Governor, Trinidad THI 1311/9).

New York shipping circles understand that German interests are attempting to sell 80 vessels tied up in South Central America since outbreak of war (M.C.3).

9.11.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA,
BARHAM,
RAMILLIES,
MANCHESTER.

MALAYA to return Malta for re-arming. BARHAM or RAMILLIES to relieve her. Vice-Adm. Layton to transfer to MANCHESTER on arrival in Mediterranean and will command 18th Cruiser Sqdn. in Home Fleet. (1st S.L., 2022/9).
Your 2022/9. Am sending RAMILLIES to relieve MALAYA. BARHAM needs docking. Alternately if delay of 1/4 days can be accepted in relief of MALAYA, BARHAM will be sent after docking. Consider BARHAM should join Force J as she is palpably more suitable than RAMILLIES. (C. in C., Med., 1101/10).

WAR DIARY. 9.11.39.
Thursday.

German Merchantmen contd.

NEUENFELS. NEUENFELS which arrived at Haugesund 8/11 from northward left southward 0900/9, having painted funnel black during night.

KIEL KIEL reported to have left southbound 1600/8 (Haugesund 1039/9).

TRITON, LUNA, HOLSTENOR. Oslo. TRITON sailed. LUNA and HOLSTENOR arrived (Consul, Oslo 1504/9).

LEANDER Captured. 2315/9 ISIS captured German m.v.LEANDER (990 tons) ex Vigo and sent into Falmouth as prize with Convoy HG6 (D.C.N.S.) she was disguised as a Russian ship. Crew refused to allow the Captain to scuttle her. Arrived Falmouth 14/11.

PACIFIC COAST. Merchant vessel PACIFIC COAST, requisitioned by British Government set on fire by explosion at Brest 1330. Towed out into the roads. 9 British dead, 7 wounded (including 1 N.O. of British Naval Staff at Brest, Ship still burning at 2000/9 (D.C.N.S.)

WEATHER

North Sea. Wind S.S.W., strong. Rain. Visibility poor.
Horns Reef. Wind S.W., strong. Showers, Visibility moderate.
Channel. Wind S.W., strong. Showers. Visibility poor.
Western Approaches, Wind W, fresh. Showers. Visibility good.
Outlook. Wind veering W. and moderating slowly.

WAR DIARY

9.11.39
Thursday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

HOME FLEET.

NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD and 7 destroyers arrived Rosyth 0830. HOOD and 3 destroyers are proceeding west about to Plymouth. (They had been covering convoy HNI see 7.11., 8/11.)
2 A.A. cruisers and 16 submarines are also at Rosyth.

Kite Balloon Trial.

H.M.S. EDINBURGH detailed for kite balloon trial at Rosyth from 13/11. (C.in C. H.F.1729/9).

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland 4 cruisers 1 A.M.C.
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser 2 A.M.C.

A.C.O.S. recommends active A/S measures in Yell Sound and vicinity; when ships not entering or leaving harbour could operate against U-boats in Muckle Flugga area. (A.C.O.S.1805/9).

Air Reconnaissance.

In addition to normal air reconnaissance:
(1) Continuous patrol at mouth of Firth of Forth.
(2) Search along the coast from Montrose to Orfordness at daylight (?10/11 or 11/11).

Air Liaison.

Air Liaison Officers to embark in STORK at Rosyth and PELICAN at Harwich by 11/11 (C.in C. Rosyth 2016/9)

Convoys.

Arrangements for rendezvous of convoys in Western Approaches. (F.O.C.Dover 1625/9, C.in C. W.A. 2022/10, Adty 1524/13).

Positions of Submarines.

Estimated positions of submarines at 0700 (Adty.1816/8).

A. one in zone C1
B. one in zone C2
C. one in zone P
D. one in zone R
E. one in approx. position VLJN.
F. one in position ZGND 1640 arrives Rosyth a.m.11/11
One submarine will be leaving Rosyth p.m. 9/11 arriving Blyth 10/11.

German Merchantmen.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK reported passed Skagerrak 9/11 accompanied by 3 T.B's (I.C.0264/39).
Many German merchant ships reported still frequenting west coast of Norway (Kristiansands THI 1205/9).
List of German ships at sea which may be hoping to return home (FOCNP2229/9, 2235/9). Latest positions (Adty 1252/10) See also 10/11.

War Diary.

10.11.39.

Friday.

U)BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Home Commands.

S/ms. reported

GIPSY and GLOWWORM searching for possible s/m off entrance to Bristol Channel, 60 miles S.W. of Milford Haven fixed by French D/F. Reported position 50° 50' N. 7° 10' W. at 0646/10 not to be considered accurate (DNI. 1134/10, C. in C. W A 1200/10). GIPSY found nothing, abandoned.

0530 by "X" patrol.

0924 s/m sighted 47° 40' N. 9° 20' W. position unreliable (IC.0265/39).

1800 2 s/ms. of 250 tons reported seen off Ymuiden on course 225° (Adty. 1155/11).

2345 Large U-boat sighted 10 miles West of Beachy Head steering E. by Yugoslav ship. Report believed reliable. (V.A.D.-over 1850/11).

1839 Reliable D/F fix of enemy unit in 57° 0' N. 40° 0' E. (Adty. 1907/10)

1200 Norwegian SS GIMLE sighted s/m. 57° 16' N. 4° 25' E. course southerly (IC. 0267/39)

1700 U-boat sighted off Christian sand course S. 12 knots (IC 0266/39).

S/ms. attacked

1530 S/m. was attacked by a/c on the continuous patrol line, 50 miles 250° from Lister Light, Norway. She submerged 3 or 4 minutes before bomb was dropped, no result probable (DCNS).

America and West Indies

1700 S/m. sighted 110 Quaco Head, Bay of Lundy, 12 miles, course 110°. Dawn Patrol by a/cs. will be carried out in this area. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0634/11).

War Diary.

10. 11. 39.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

ASCUNSION
EILBEK

Reported that German ship ASCUNSION left Las Palmas 2000. Can you confirm (SO(1) Freetown 1210/13). EILBEK left San Miguel, Azores 2100 (C. in C. WA.0914/11) (NCSO San Miguel 1540/9 says preparing to leave Ponta Delgada)

Mediterranean

Suspect neutral Trade.

Master of Rumanian Steamship informed Officer i/c armed guard at Malta that Hungarian steamers BUDAPEST, DUNQUIN, SZEGED and TISZA, plying between Smyrna and Budapest, were known to be carrying contraband. (SO (1) Malta 2130/9).

In view of increased number of destroyer flotillas now with Home Fleet, additional depot ship required and WOOLWICH ordered to sail for Portsmouth (DOD(F) 1143/10).

South Atlantic.

Approved to send home Germans from Freetown in SS. ATHLONE CASTLE (M. Brch. 1304/10).

America & West Indies.

Cable ship CYRUS FIELD to proceed to Halifax to repair cables (M. Brch. 2209/10).
COLUMBUS (German) using W/T at Vera Cruz. (SO(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1600/10).

East Indies

China

Japanese Commander, Tientsin to be informed of Govt's decision owing to European situation to reduce forces in North China temporarily, token forces being retained in accordance with rights under Boxer Protocol (D.N.I.2159/10)

KULMERLAND — KULMERLAND (German) (potential AMC) taking in fuel oil etc. (TERROR, Singapore 1732/9).

SCHARNHORST — SCHARNHORST has traded more foodstuff. (TERROR, Singapore 1732/9).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Positions of French ships

S/ms. ORPHEE and ANTIOPE escorted by drifter HEUREUX will leave Brest p.m. 10/11 (Admiral West 0758/8).
One patrol vessel in Eastern Channel, three off N.W. coast of Spain. OURAGAN with convoy 44° 30' N. 6° 10' W., course S.W. MISTRAL and CHACAL with convoy H.G.6 (Gibraltar to U.K.) 43°30' N. 12°30' W.

International Military Situation

British and French Governments pointed out to Belgian Government that effective Franco-British military support to Belgium or Holland demands that plans should be concerted urgently with Belgian military authorities. (D.N.I. 2159/10)

WEATHER.

North Sea - Wind W. strong. Visibility Good. Coastal mist. Channel - Wind W - S.W. moderate. Visibility good. Coastal mist. Western Approaches - Wind S. - S.W. moderate. Visibility good. Horns Reef - Wind S.W. moderate. Visibility good.
Outlook - Brief spell of fir weather followed by unsettled conditions.

War Diary.

10.11.1939,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Tension in Holland.	Request for ships at Rosyth to be held in readiness for operation off Dutch Coast. (D.O.D. (H), 0117/10). Orders to ships (C.in C., H.F., 1107/10 and R.A. (D), 1605/10).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

by an Admiralty D/F fix, most reliable (D.C.N.S.) see also Donibristle 1844/10.
Enemy seaplane brought down 1135 by our a/c's 75 miles N.E. of Yarmouth (D.C.1933/10) (I.C. 0265/39 says 150 miles E.N.E. Spurn Point)
0900 one a/c reported off Alnmouth steering N.W.
1015 one a/c over Sullum Voe, was engaged by surface ships.
One a/c off Whitby, early afternoon.

Enemy Intelligence Concentration. Further reports received of concentration of German ships in Heligoland - Wilhelmshaven area (D.N.I. 1906/10).

Reported that German Oil tanker lying at Murmansk is supplying oil fuel to s/ms. and 2 German s/ms. completed with stores from motor boats at Archangel at beginning of October (Narvik 1801/10).
1928 reliable D/F fix of enemy unit 56° 5' N. 4° 25' E. (Adty. 1952/10).

Kattegat Patrol No German s/ms. on Kattegat Patrol sighted by neutral ships for many days (N.A. Copenhagen 1245/11).

LEANDER captured see 9/11. German SS. LEANDER (989 tons) disguised as Russian left Vigo midnight 8/9 Nov., taken at 0400 in 42° 32' N., 12° 46' W. proceeding to Plymouth under armed guard (1315 06172/10, C. in C. W.A. 1435/10) Arrived Falmouth 13/11 (C. in C. W.A. 2030/13).
5 or more German merchant vessels reported to be sailing from Vigo. French Admiralty have been informed (Lisbon 1212/10. C. in C. W.A. 2307/9).
Reported 33 or 34 German ships at Vigo either ready or preparing for sea (C. in C. W.A.1107/14).

TENERIFE Well informed Lisbon report that German ship TENERIFE left Vigo same time as LEANDER, Lisbon 1212/10.

NEW YORK German Ship NEW YORK reported arrived in Germany from Murmansk escorted by destroyers and a/c's through Skagerrak (N.A. Oslo 1100/10) see also 9/11.

NAJADE
CASTOR German ship NAJADE has left Oslo and German ship CASTOR arrived (Consul 1415/10).

IRMGARD)
OBERHAUSEN) left Gothenburg (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1056/10)

German ship loaded with iron ore left Narvik night of 9/11 (Narvik 1101/10).

YALOVA YALOVA arrived Galatzi (Galatzi 1705/11).

EILBEK EILBEK left Azores 10/11 deck cargo timber (F.O.C. N.P. 1 2305/18)

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

At Rosyth: NELSON, RODNEY, AURORA, 2nd C.S., 2 A-A cruisers, 10 destroyers, 16 s/ms.
7th C.S. and 11th C.S. to be based on Port A. for a time. Shore arrangements. (C. in C. H.F. 1941/9).
Proposed to send 2 ships from 1st A/S striking force to Port A. and to leave Sullum Voe with its present defences (DOD, H.1136/10. C. in C. H.F. 2351/10).

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 3 " 1 A.M.C.
In Denmark strait - 1 cruiser. 1 A.M.C.

Humber.

In addition to 2nd C.S. and 4 Tribals all available "J" class destroyers are concentrating in Humber.
Ent + Express to Immingham for mines, then proceed Harwich (DOD (H) 0116/19

Positions of s/ms.

Estimated positions of s/ms. at 0700/10 (Adty. 1902/9).
One in Zone C.1.
One in Zone C.2.
One in VLJN approx.
One in Zone P.
One proceeding from Zone R. to Zone T.
One arriving Rosyth.
One arriving Blyth.

Air Reconnaissances

Reconnaissances ordered for 10/11.
(a) Coast search from Montrose to Orfordness.
(b) Reconnaissance in force into Heligoland Bight.

Convoys

H.N.I. (First Bergen to Methil) convoy arrived Methil 1300. 4 destroyers escorting.
British ships should not cross to Norwegian coast unescorted (C. in C. Rosyth, 1547/10, C. in C. H.F. 2352/10).
Re. times of arrival of convoys in Downs (F.O. Dover 1625/9, C. in C. W.A. 2022/10).

THETIS.

THETIS was safely delivered at Holyhead 1515/ Salvagine UM Liverpool THI 1611/19 S.f 1745/10. NOI/C. Holyhead 1530/10).

Casualties

Trawler NORTHERN ROVER last seen 30/10 on patrol in Fair Island Channel, due Kirkwall 5/11. now considered lost. Air searches etc. have been unsuccessful (F.O.C.N.P. 1417/9). Loss was announced by Admiralty 11/11.

Enemy Air Activity

At least 12 enemy reconnaissance aircraft were operating over the North Sea during the forenoon.
1400 a Dornier a/c was attacked by 2 British machines and brought down off Newcastle by a Hudson. Carrier pigeon said to have been released. Dinghy noticed alongside after descent. Aircraft assisted to find target

by/

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's reported.

0800 and 0830 s/m reported from shore N.W. Holbeurn Head. 58° 37' N. 3° 32' W. ZULU to investigate (FOCOS 1005/11) Reliability doubtful (FOCOS 1103/11)

0947 Position of unknown enemy unit 54° 25' N. 6° 50' E. Reliable fix (Adty. 1015/11)

1340 Ship SOUTHWARD Ho. reported s/m approx. 5 miles S.E. Tyne - OLIVIA and CAPE COMORIN searched, no result (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/12)

Attacked.

1350 STORK escorting southbound convoy attacked contact 9.9 miles off St. Abbs Head 3300, 4 charges, no result. (Stork 1350/11.

1510 A/S trawler carrying out d/c practice reports that after dropping charges a s/m surfaced in position approximately VLSE 57. (C. in C. Rosyth 1510/11, 1943/11)

South Atlantic.

0700 s/m (?British) spoke a fishing boat far out off Calamhar Pt. 5° 7' S. 35° 29' W. S/M steering South, A 1 (Rio 1515/13)

2200 Lisbon reports a s/m sighted south of Santiago Island, C. Verde proceeding westward (S.O.(I) Gib. 1743/13)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PIONIER. German ship PIONIER (3285t) arrived Las Palmas 1155/11) ? is fuelling from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMAN (S.O.(I) Gib. 1212/13) Fuelling not confirmed (S.O.(I) Gib. 1647/13)(Left Fernando Po. 28/10.)

Mediterranena.

speed up of shipping. In view of urgent necessity of speeding up shipping it is essential that ships where possible should proceed independently. Convoy is not at present essential in Mediterranean (Adty. 1950/11) C. in C. Med. 1533/12.

Naval Intelligence Centre. Main Naval Intelligence Centre has been transferred to Malta. Alexandria reverts to Intelligence Sub-Centre (C. in C. Med. 1120/11)

Contraband. Control. Aden suggested ? Malta. In view of Italian objections to voluntary submission to contraband control at Port Said and to diversion to Haifa possibility is being examined of moving base for control of contraband entering Mediterranean from the East to Aden. Before this is done special arrangement would be made to prevent Massawa becoming entreport for contraband. Necessary arrangements. (Adty. 1139/13) See also 27/10 and other dates, and N.I.D. 4134/39. Delays caused to Italian ships on account of British contraband control.

Patrols. Re patrols (R.A.3 C.S. 1139/10) Need for 2 ships to patrol off Dardanelles and in Gulf of Smyrna, apart from any patrol desirable on West coast of Greece and off Italian waters. Requisitioning of ships (C. in C Med 1916/11)

America and West Indies.

AEQUATOR German ship AEQUATOR at Punta Arenas (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2208/11)

SIDI- FERRUCH (s/m) returned to Port of Spain from patrol 0750 (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 0820/11)

South Atlantic.

Force H. Force H. left Simonstown and Cape Town in accordance with C. in C. S.A.19105/11 (N.O. i/c Simonstown 1945/11). Believed arrangements have been made for immediate fuelling of German s/m at Guaratuba 25° 52' S. 48° 35' W. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1415/11)

East Indies.

See Mediterranean above

China.

German ships left Nagasaki, said to be bound for Kobe (S.O.(I) Shanghai 1529/12)

ANNELISE ESSBERGER
ELSA "

War Diary.

11.11.39
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

AJAX

German ship AJAX arrived at Oslo. (Consul Oslo 1354/11)

TRAUTENFELS

German ship TRAUTENFELS arrived at Gothenburg (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1129/11)

CORDOBA
KONSUL
HENDRIK FISSER
LIVADIA
LUDOLF OLDENDORF
LAHNECK
SEBU
TANGER
PALOS

8 German merchant vessels reported left Vigo 11/11. The French have sailed ~~a cruiser and torpedo~~ boat in endeavour to intercept them. (a cruiser + torpedo) Reported further sailing is anticipated about 14/15 Nov. (I.C.0267/39) (to intercept them.)
Likely to be disguised as neutral, Russian being most probable (C. in C. W.A. 1339/12)

GANTER

Three French destroyers from Dunkirk have sailed to endeavour to intercept German cargo boat GANTER (1770 tons) reported sailing from Antwerp (V.A. Dover 1555 /12) Reliably reported 12/11 she is now at Hansweert, River Scheldt (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1740/14)
Passenger ship painted grey, about 13,000 tons, was reported in 71° N. 23° E. 1500, course W. speed 16 knots. (Admiralty 1304/14) ? CORDILLERA from Murmansk.

CASTOR

German S.S. CASTOR arrived Powsgrund 11/10 (Skien 1055/13)

Positions of French ships.

Estimated positions 1200/11 - (D.C.0438/11)
2 p.v. off Finisterre
2 p.v. off Vigo
LA GALISSONIERE, LE CHEVALIER PAUL in TDVV 3000, course N.
GRAGE with convoy VRRY 1510 course N.
CHACAL, MISTRAL with convoy H.G.6

WEATHER.

North Sea. Wind S.W. moderate. Visibility moderate. Cloudy.
Channel Wind in S.E. fresh, visibility moderate, partly cloudy Rain.
Western Approaches, wind S. to S.W., fresh, visibility moderate, Cloudy with rain.
Horns Reef. Wind W, moderate, visibility good, partly cloudy.
Outlook. No change up to noon 11/11, rain spreading from west later.

War Diary. 11. 11. 1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Humber Force. Until further orders, ~~Home~~Humber Force to consist of four cruisers, four Tribal class destroyers, and all available destroyers of 7th D.F. and available A/A cruisers. Force to be administered by C.S. 2 and operated as directed by the Admiralty. To be placed at disposal of C. in C., Home Fleet, should occasion arise. If an operation on a large scale is required off Dutch Coast, 22nd and 19th Flotillas will also be placed under orders of C.S.2. (D.O.D. (H), 1625/11). Above is a special organisation during present period of tension in Low Countries. At same time, destroyers and A/A cruisers are to be used for covering East Coast convoys. (C.S.O., ~~12/11~~ 1405/12).

U-Boat Casualties. Report from Germany via neutral source of U-boat casualties up to Nov. 1 shows 2⅓ lost, 3 not heard of for five days, 3 not heard of for eight days, 3 returned badly damaged (grade C.O). (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 2237/11, 1150/12).

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

NELSON, RODNEY, EDINBURGH, 2 A-A cruisers and 10 destroyers at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers.
Between Faroes and Iceland 3 cruisers 1 AMC.
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser 2 AMC.
DIOMEDE proceeding from Faroes - Iceland patrol with Swedish DROTTNING HOLM intercepted on patrol, to W of Faroes, then to transfer to armed trawler.
GLASGOW ordered to proceed to Denmark Strait at 18 knots (FOC 2 C.S. 1010/10).
The two "C" Class cruisers for Australia are on the Northern Patrol. Cannot be relieved by AMC's until December. Should be able to sail end of January. (1st Sea Lord 1222/1).

Humber Force.

SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW (see above), BELFAST, AURORA and 4 Tribal destroyers left Rosyth for Humber 0430/11.

Harwich

4 destroyers (including 2 Polish).
4 destroyers from Plymouth and 5 S/M's from Rosyth ane to proceed to Harwich (DC to BNLO Marceau 0823/11).

Convoys.

Hoped to arrange eventually that no British vessels of less than 9 knots are engaged in Scandinavian trade. Speed of convoys not to be reduced for benefit of neutrals alone. (Adty 1133/11).

Trade.

Arrangements re Iceland's normal trade with Germany extended to 25/11 (Adty. 1251/11) C. in C. H.F. 1900/16.

Indiscretions by C.S. officers, Kirkwall (D.N.I. 1123/11)

EREBUS.

EREBUS to be commissioned 11/11 for active service in home waters (DOP(H) 2239/10)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

s/m's reported

0942 s/m sighted by trawler NORT NESS 10 miles East of Withernsea (Humber Radio 1125/12, C-in-C Rosyth 1057/12)

1212 enemy s/m 57° 50'N 5° 49'E steering 170° (RA(S) 1716/12) Reported by a/c (C-in-C Rosyth 1609/12)

1809 D/F reports place possible U-boat in position YZSE 35 50 (C-in-C Rosyth 1809/12)

1200 TIMLE (Norwegian) sighted s/m 57° 16'N 4° 25'E Circumstantial details (C-in-C Rosyth 2216/12)

1900 s/m reported in Scapa Flow. Flow was thoroughly searched. Consider report false. (ACOS 004/12)

s/m's attacked

1212 by a Hudson on continuous patrol, stick bomb attack, on s/m (30 miles SW Lister Light, Norway) 57° 50'N, 5° 49'E claiming one direct hit. Result not known owing to high sea running.

ships attacked

CRESSWELL 0800 Trawler CRESSWELL (275t) (Mr. Bull Master) was sunk by gunfire 18 miles NW by N of Flannan Isles by U41 (C-in-C Rosyth 1758/13 who says rescuing trawler was PHYLLISIA F.D. 148) See also C-in-C Rosyth 1456/13. But C-in-C Rosyth 1458/13 says survivors rescued by trawler THYLASSIE who was stopped by the s/m about 1800 in approx. the same position; s/m stated she had sunk a 10,000 ton tanker 1730/13. Mr. Bull, Master alsosays rescuing trawler was PHYLISSIA (Interview C & S Sect. T.D. 17/11)(N.I.D. 3899/39)
6 lost, 6 saved.

ARNE KJÜDE 1730 ARNE KJÜDE (Norwegian tanker 11,019t) sunk by torpedo 58° 45'N 7° 8'W. ISIS located her (C-in-C Rosyth 1147/14, 2339/14 AC Orkneys & Shetlands 1824/14, ISIS 2054/14, Port Patrick Radio 0740/14, ISIS 1901/14) See also Air Reconnaissance 15/11 for further details, she broke in two; ISIS attempted to tow after part, but impossible owing to fact that heavy seas running, so sank the derelict about 1530/15. AMC CHITRAL sunk fore part by gunfire. The s/m which sank the above two ships was homeward bound (IC 0268/39) 5 missing (NA Oslo 1000/17
5 missing.

12.11.1939,
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy.

C.N.S. Ottawa's 2132/3. Arranged that Canadian Division will sail in two groups. Six liners capable of carrying approximately 8,000 will be ready to leave Halifax on 7/12. Shipping for second group available about 21/12. Do not consider use of concentration anchorage in Newfoundland desirable. Would prefer convoy to sail in company from Halifax with all available destroyers. Ocean escort will be provided by R.N., and route orders issued by Admiralty. (D.O.D. (F), 1031/12).

War Diary

12.11.39.

Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ANTIOCHIA)
TRIFELS)

Germans, sailed from San Miguel, Azores 2000 for unknown destination (IC 0267/39)

Australia

Australian destroyers for Mediterranean to be sent immediately (Navy Office, Melbourne 1145/12) Required to replace forces transferred to the Atlantic for very urgent convoy escort work (1st Sea Lord 1222/11)

South Atlantic

ERLANGEN

German ship ERLANGEN (6101t) arrived Puerto Montt (Asst. N.A. Santiago 1225/13, NCSO Valparaiso 1655/13)

America & West Indies

DEUTSCHLAND
4/11

Captain of a Norwegian ship reports he was stopped by DEUTSCHLAND 4/11 600 miles NE of Newfoundland, is confident she was DEUTSCHLAND (IC 0267/39 says 54° 6'N 37° 19'W approx. 700 miles NE of St. John's N.F. at 1335/4)

WEST CAWTHORN

Ship WEST CAWTHORN was spoken p.m. by a German vessel, uncertain whether s/m or surface vessel, in 40@ 30'N 31° 20'W (NSHQ Ottawa 1058/14) Asking for details (DNI 1824/15)

War Diary. 12.11.1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Tension in Holland. A coup to seize Ymuiden (a stronghold of Dutch Nazis) coincident with a German attack is possible. Dutch Naval Staff concerned with defences of West Friesian Islands against attack by shallow draught troop transport, which is considered will be part of plan. Netherlands cruiser SUMATRA sailed for Vlissingen during night of 10th November and will remain there at present. (N.A., Hague, 1718/12).

War Diary.

12.11.39.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties
GIPSY
GREYHOUND

GIPSY and GREYHOUND damaged in collision. (Capt.D 0702/12) Both sustained slight damage and are proceeding to Harwich and Sheerness respectively to make good defects.
VIMY slit in ship's side. 50 tons oil fuel contaminated (MACKAY 1159/12)

FIREGLOW

SS. FIREGLOW ran on wreck of the CANADA 1758. Humber lifeboat took off crew, but later she was refloated and proceeded under her own steam. (Humber Radio TOR 1900/12, 0738/13)

DEERPOOL

SS. DEERPOOL (5167t) grounded during night off mouth of Humber. Humber lifeboat took off crew. (?Still afloat)

Convoys

Several mishaps to East Coast convoys owing to bad visibility during night.
FN35 (Thames to Firth of Forth) in fog off Norfolk Coast sailing of PVTT postponed until 0300/13 (C-in-C Portsmouth 1255/12)

MECKLENBURG
scuttled

1347/12 SS. MECKLENBURG (German 7892t) which left Pernambuco 14/10 scuttled herself when stopped by DELHI between Faroes and Iceland. DELHI picked up 56 survivors in heavy weather (Adty 0013/13, DELHI 0800/13, 1730/12) Position 62° 37'N 10° 26'W. She was disguised as Dutch ship HOOGKERK (Adty 1541/12) and it was under this disguise that she was ordered into Kirkwall on 12/11 (DELHI 0613/12)

TREUENFELS

German, reported passed Haugesund (Adty 0745/14, V.C. Haugesund 1545/13)

Ymuiden closed

Port of Ymuiden will be closed until further notice (C.G. Amsterdam 1115/12) (Re-opened 15/11)

French positions.

1200/12 (D.C. 0242/12)

WEATHER

North Sea Northern Half Wind fresh N.W. Visibility good
" " Southern " " light S.W. " poor with fog.
Channel Wind light westerly visibility moderate with coastal fog.
Western Approaches Wind calm, visibility moderate
Outlook Area of N.W. winds and good visibility gradually extending Southward during day.

War Diary. 12. 11. 1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, and 5 destroyers leave Rosyth 1630 to-day for practices West of Orkneys 13/11, then cruise between Faroes and Norway until 17/11, then return to Clyde, arriving 0900 Sunday 19/11. Battle Fleet leaves Clyde 22/11, remains at sea until 30/11, returning to Rosyth, Port A, or Clyde according to circumstances. (C. in C., H.F., 1304/12).

LEANDER (German) interception. Extract from prize officer's report from German ship LEANDER concerning incident when sighted by French warships A.M. 12/11. (A.C.W.A., 1904/14).

War Diary

12.11.39
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

NELSON, RODNEY, EDINBURGH, 2 A.A. cruisers and 12 destroyers left Rosyth p.m. to carry out full calibre firings before proceeding on patrol between Faroes and Norway, to be joined by 3 more destroyers in Pentland Firth 0830/13.

In view of Adty. 1625/11 (Restricted circulation) following redispositions to take place (C-in-C HF 0935/12):-

(a) EDINBURGH to relieve AURORA, latter proceeding to cover Convoy ON 2 (Methil-Bergen)

(b) AFRIDI, MAORI, ZULU to replace BEDOUIN, MASHONA, and TARTAR in Humber Force: on relief MASHONA to escort s/m H34 and oiler WAR PINDARI from Rosyth to Scapa and Port A respectively. TARTAR to escort S.S. MARYLYN from Aberdeen to Scapa. BEDOUIN proceed to Scapa.

(c) IMPERIAL to escort ON2 in place of AFRIDI.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers
" Faroes and Iceland 3 cruisers 1 AMC
In Denmark Strait NEWCASTLE and 2 AMC's

Rosyth & Nore Command Boundaries

As from 2359/12 boundary between Rosyth Command and Nore Command will be moved to a line joining Flamborough Head and the charted position of Horns Reef Lt. V. C-in-C Rosyth will continue to provide and operate the close escort for East Coast Convoy from Rosyth Escort Force. C-in-C Nore will operate in co-operation with C-in-C Rosyth the daylight covering force with A.A. cruisers and destroyers of 7th DF based on Humber (Adty. 1941/11)

Tyne Area Boundary

Proposed alteration of Tyne area in consequence of above (C-in-C Rosyth 1700/13) to be extended as far south as Flamborough Head.

Humber Force

SOUTHAMPTON, AURORA, BELFAST and 13 destroyers. CURLEW left Rosyth 1700 for Humber (C-in-C Rosyth 0701/12) ESK, EXPRESS, BLANCHE, BASILISK for Humber held up in fog near Outer Dowsing (C-in-C Rosyth 0701/12)

Harwich Force

4 destroyers (including 2 Polish)
4 "G" class destroyers due 0800/12

Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal air reconnaissance:
(1) Patrol of Fair Island Channel.
(2) Reconnaissance flight at dawn between Humber and Terschelling.
(3) Patrol of the Minches.

War Diary

13. 11. 39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

There are no indications of U-boats in the Western Approaches, but minelaying off the East Coast of England seems to be increasing.

S/ms. reported

1124 Reliable D/F fix unknown enemy unit 53° 52' N. 4° 40' E. (Adty.1158/13).

1334 Reliable D/F fix unknown enemy unit 53° 52' N. 5° 18' E. (Adty. 1358/13).

U-Boats attacked

0940 By F.B.K 5908 in position P.M.N.D. 4014. S/m dived, result unknown. (F.B. K5908/0940/13).

1815 ENCHANTRESS attacked firm contact with 4 d/c's. 49° 40' N. 12° 4' W. No confirmation of s/m (ENCHANTRESS 1750/17).

Ships sunk

1100 British SS. PONZANO (1364 tons) (mined) 51° 28' 38'' N. 1° 25' 20'' E. near Tongue Lt. V. (IC.0268/39) near position where BLANCHE was mined) Crew saved.

1845 British SS. MATRA (8003 tons), Master Mr. Butterworth, was mined 1 mile E. of Tongue Light V. (IC.0268/39). She was in convoy HXF7. At 1126/14 she was ashore off the Shingles Patch buoy and was refloated, trying to tow her (C. in C. Nore 1126/14) 3 k. 13 missing. grounded again. ? 2 lost, 22 saved.

1931 A/S trawler presumed mined 51° 31' N. 1° 39' E. E.N.E. Tongue Lt. V. GLOWWORM. Divert all shipping bound for Thames to Sunk and Barrow Deep (C. in C. Nore 1931/13

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies

French s/m L'ESPOIR to sail a.m. for Djibouti and Toulon. (SO(1) Colombo 0626 Z/11).

China

SIRDHANA mined — At 0240 the SS. SIRDHANA (British 7745 tons) struck a British mine and sank just outside Singapore, owing to disregard of instructions. 20 dead.

RAILA — RAILA (? Dutch) left Curacoa night 13/14 Nov. with motor gasoline etc. for Reykjavik (Willemstad) (N.E.I.1215/15).

South Atlantic

Forces K and X. — Arrangements in view of possibility of co-operation between Forces K. and X. (C. in C.S.A. 0940/13)

French sloop — D'ENTRECASTEAUX reported sighting periscope 1910 in 12° 56' N. 22° 24' W. (Adty.0235/14).

America and West Indies.

s/m reported — Ship of American South African Line was spoken by German s/m early morning about 20° N. 46° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2106/13, Adty. 1020/14).
SIDI-FERRUCH (French s/m) left Port of Spain 1005 (N.S.C.O. Trinidad 1105/13).
WARSPITE to escort large convoy HX2 (Halifax to U.K.) 18/11 (RA3BS 1204/13).

North Atlantic.

TRIFELS
ANTIOCHA — Report from Ponta Delgada that German SS. INFELS (? TRIFELS 6198 tons) and ANTIOCHA (3106 tons) left Ponta Delgada night 12/13 (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1745/13).

LKAUS SCHOKE)
LUIS BORNHOFEN) — 5836 tons in harbour in ballast (B.C.Horta 1930/13
2860 " -do- -do-

GERMANIA
RUDOLF ALBRECHT. — Remaining German ships are :- Tanker GERMANIA (9851 tons) cargo of petrol, and RUDOLF ALBRECHT cargo fuel oil. Considered probable that both vessels will sail before long (N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Azores) 1530/13).

South Atlantic.

s/m sighted — Portuguese N.S.O. reports s/m hove to S.W. Santiago, C. Verde Is. 1600. (SO(1) Gib. 1723/14)

13. 11. 39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

A/S vessels — Temporary reorganisation of Auxiliary A/S vessels to be brought into force 17/11 (Adty. 1209/13) Cf, 14/11.

Mine Barrage (Operation S.N.) — It is proposed to lay a mine barrage from the Orkneys to the Norwegian coast. Mine layers to be taken up and converted. +Mines to be embarked at Kyle of Loch Alsh and a second base (decision later). Project is to be referred to as operation SN; to be in charge of a Flag Officer with Title R.A. (M.L.) About 36,000 large and 145,000 small mines. Special Secret Branch Acquaint No. 275.

Libau partly closed — It is reported from Latvia that the northern gate of Libau is closed to shipping and it is prohibited to navigate or stay in the outer harbour north of 56° 32.5' N. (I.C.0267/39).

Enemy Mining Positions of French ships. — Enemy mines have apparently been laid near the Tongue Lt. V. (IC 0267/39).
L'ORAGE (Destr.) 45° 30' N. 3° 30' W. with convoy.
TIGRE, PANTHERE (t.b's.) 41° 30' 11°30' W. with convoy OG6.
LION (Cr.) arrived Gibraltar 0800, left 1025 eastward. EROS (armed yacht) passed E. to W. 1015.

Paitions of s/m's. — 0700/13 (D.C. 2008/12)

WEATHER.

North Sea	Wind light. Rain and coastal fog. Visibility mod.
Horns Reef	Wind N.W. moderate. Visibility good.
Channel.	Wind light, Coastal fog. Visibility moderate.
Western Appchs.	Wind south, fresh to strong. Rain. Mod. visibility

Outlook:- Unsettled conditions spreading slowly from the west.

WAR DIARY. 13.11.39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Air Reconnaissance In Reconnaissance flight at dawn from Firth of Forth to Southern Norway.

Convoys. Re convoy escort (Scandinavian convoy) coming into territorial waters (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1805/13).

Routeing of Ships. Wherever possible all vessels to be routed outside the 20 fathom line round the British Isles subject to adherence to searched channels where these are in force (Adty. D.T.D. 0317/14) Between 41° 40' N. and 44° 30' N. all ships being routed west of 10° W. so as to assist French authorities watching for escape of German ships from Vigo (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1710/13).

Air Activities German air reconnaissance was active in southern part of the North Sea and a/cs. were reported off Skegness, Yarmouth and Harwich. One of the latter was engaged by our fighters and believed to have been seriously damaged.

Attack on Northern Patrol Cruisers at Sullum Voe Northern Patrol cruisers at Sullum Voe, Shetlands, were attacked by one a/c at 1315 and again at 1400. Bombs were dropped but no hits obtained, though slight damage was done on shore.

Polish s/ms. Polish s/ms. to join 2nd Submarine Flotilla (RA(S) 1821/24/10, Adty. 1559/13).

PARANA scuttled German ship PARANA (6038 tons) scuttled herself in 65° 41' N. 25°22' W. to avoid capture by NEWCASTLE, who sunk her by gunfire. (NEWCASTLE 1002/13) Signal sent by PARANA before capture (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1006/13) Crew of 57 on board NEWCASTLE.

Enemy Intelligence Unidentified German ship passed Haugesund northward in ballast 1500 (V.C. Haugesund 1545/13).

NEW YORK NEW YORK (German liner) arrived Hamburg (N. A. Copenhagen 1200/13).

PERNAMBUCO German ship PERNAMBUCO and another arrived Hamburg from Brazil (do)

Trawlers reporting Master of SLASK (Polish) reports several German trawlers and one trawler ship about 1000 tons patrolling in Swedish territorial waters and obviously reporting neutral shipping to German warships (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1825/13) Trawler traffic has started again. (V.C. Haugesund 1545/13)

LUNA German ship LUNA (1456 tons) arrived Halden (Norway) and sailed 14/11 for Oslo. Reliable information she has 7 large telefunken W/T sets installed, one with 16 valves (V.C. Halden 1515/14)

ACHAIA reliably reported left Flushing 13/11 (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1740/14).

War Diary. 13.11.1939, Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

ADVENTURE Mined. — M.M.S. ADVENTURE torpedoed or mined in position 120 Tongue Light Vessel 3 at 0518 (ADVENTURE, ~~0558/13~~ 0558/13). Tugs requested (ADVENTURE, 0623/13). Appears to be floating comfortably, am embarking wounded (BASILISK, 0632/13). Tugs DORIA and SALVA from Ramsgate and LADY BRASSEY from Dover sent (C. in C., Nore, 0633/13). ADVENTURE, present position, 51° 29' N., 01° 30' E. (BASILISK, ~~0645/13~~ 0645/13) Able to steam and is being led to Sheerness by BASILISK. (BASILISK, 0722/13).

ADVENTURE, BLANCHE, Mined. — At 0518 to-day ADVENTURE mined in position 120° Tongue Light Vessel 3 miles. At 0825, BLANCHE was mined in same vicinity and sank shortly afterwards in 5 fathoms. ADVENTURE proceeded Sheerness under own power and is being docked at Chatham. (Casualties in both ships). Mines were probably non-contact. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C.,H.F., 1558/13).

WAR DIARY

13.11.39.
Monday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Home Fleet.

See 12/11.
AURORA left Immingham 0800 to cover the Norwegian Convoy.

Changes in dispositions.

DEVONSHIRE (to be relieved by KENT), NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, BERWICK to Home for 1st C.S. EXETER when relieved by DEVONSHIRE to Force F, A & W.I. HAWKINS on completion to A & W.I. for Halifax convoy. KENT to 1st C.S. when relieved by LIVERPOOL (to China) MANCHESTER to Home, 2nd C.S. CAPETOWN to Mediterranean, 3rd C.S. (Adty.2320/13).

Humber Force.

SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, BELFAST, CURLEW, CALCUTTA and 10 destroyers in Humber. CAIRO at Rosyth.

Firth of Clyde.

Navigational warning issued to Press 1640 re prohibited anchorages etc. in Firth of Clyde.
Anchorage is absolutely prohibited in the Firth of Clyde between a line drawn 090 degrees from Toward point and a line drawn 286 degrees from Levan point.
Before entering the above area from southward all vessels must close the examination vessel off Toward point and obtain instructions.
No vessels are to pass eastward of Skelmorlie bank.
Ships disregarding this warning do so at their own peril.

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes 3 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 2 "
In Denmark Strait 2 Cruisers and 2 A.M.Cs.
F.O.C.N.P. asked to confirm that no enemy ship is ever sunk by ship of Northern Patrol if it is possible to bring her in (Adty.2233/13).
Instructions for disposal of captured enemy merchant ships (Adty.1815/13).

Manela base.

Withdrawal of cruisers of Northern Patrol from Sullum Voe to Port A leaves Manela with no A.A. protection. (A.C.O.S.1910/13) Sec.15/11.

Casualties.

ADVENTURE mined.

ADVENTURE was mined at 0530 in position 3 miles S.E. Tongue Lt.Vessel. She was on passage to Portsmouth escorted by BASILISK and BLANCHE.

Loss of BLANCHE.

BLANCHE was mined at 0825 1½ miles S.E. of same position.
ADVENTURE can steam and is proceeding to Sheerness, BLANCHE sank one mile east of N.E. SpitBuoy while in tow. Minesweepers have been sent to the area.
Both casualties due to mines (BASILISK 1020/13).
Casualties. ADVENTURE 12 killed, 35 wounded ? missing. BLANCHE 1 killed, 15 wounded, 6 missing (Adty.0828/13). See also Ramsgate THI2155/14.

WAR DIARY

14.11.39
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's reported. 0515 U-boat sighted 17 miles South-West of Boulogne by Belgian trawler. Believed reliable. (VA Dover 1458/14) Position 49° 28' N, 0°9' E(IC 0269/39 says "French trawler").

1545 Periscope reported from shore off Humber in 53° 30'N,0° 14' E (Adty 1838/14)

1620 2 S/M's sighted bound E by s.s. ORFOR 49° 40' N(intercept by Lands End Radio 1620/14 15° 45' W

1615 IMPERIAL MARTYR reports in contact near Scapa (BITTERN 1701/14).

S/M's attacked. 0930 TARTAR attacked good contact 59° Rattray Hd. 3·4 miles. Result uncertain, possibly a wreck (TARTAR 0939/14) (? wreck of CAIRNMONA)

0940 Aircraft F.B. K.5908 attackedS/M 61° 40' N 0° 14' E. Result unknown. Course 360° (IC 0268/39)

1205 GLOWWORM dropped 1 D/C in position off N.Foreland. Consider not S/M (GLOWWORM 1205/14)

1615 A/S trawler IMPERIALIST attacked contact unsuccessfully off Kentish Knock, in approx: 51° 42' N, 1° 48' E. (C in C Nore 1929/14, 1922/14).

1803 A/S Trawler LOCH TULLA attacked contact in Hoy Sound (Scapa) North-West of boom. No result.(ACOS 1803/14).

MAURICE MARGUERITE destroyed.

Explosion occured on board trawler MAURICE MARGUERITE of Ostend, near Dunkirk. Crew of 3 Belgians killed ("Telegraaf" 16/11)

War Diary.

14.11.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoy.

Admiralty 1031/12. Military authorities now state embarkation cannot commence until 7/12 and estimate ship will not be ready to sail before 10th or 11th Dec. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1104/14).

List of destroyers available at Halifax for A/S escort duties by 7th December. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1915/14).

War Diary. 14.11.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoy. Admiralty 1031/12. Military authorities now state embarkation cannot commence until 7/12 and estimate ship will not be ready to sail before 10th or 11th Dec. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1104/14).

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WAR DIARY 14.11.39
Tuesday.

South Atlantic (contd)

Argentine ports for S/M's — Question whether Argentine will allow S/M's the use of their ports is hanging in balance. Likelihood of U-boats operating in River Plate focal area. Suggest First Lord impress Argentine Ambassador and Uruguay Minister of gravity. Quick action necessary. (NA Buenos Aires 1300/14). See also

America and West Indies.

LAHN — Reported LAHN left without discharging. (Cables & Wireless Concepcion 1926/14).

Raider Supplies. — Official German Ministry of Supplies in Buenos Aires trying to obtain vessel to carry provisions, suspected for large warships, to be transhipped at sea between Valparaiso and Guayaquil in about 25 days time. (SO(I) Monte Video (2,225/14)

WAR DIARY

14.11.39
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

C.C.Italian Ships.

N.A.Rome urges attempt to meet Italian objections. Re use of Malta. Aden cannot start for some months &c. (NA Rome 1208/15). See also 26/10, 8/11. Further telegrams re.Aden.Adty 2250/15/11, NO i/c Aden 1923/16, 0652Z/17 048/1 of 14/10, C in C EI 1426Z/15.
MARSOUIN (fr. S/M) arrived Famagusta 0700 (SO (I) Malta 1120/16)).

Haifa

Boom depot not necessary. (C in C.Med.1233/14).

ITHAKA

German ship with 3,000 tons of wheat arrived Braila where she originally loaded and left 31/8 reported to have refuged at Odessa meanwhile (C - G Galatz 2314/14)

French Ships

French detached force consisting LORRAINE, MARSEILLAISE, JEAN-DE-VIENNE with escort left Toulon a.m. 14/11 for Casablanca and will pass through Straits of Gibraltar 0001/16. (Adty DOD (F) 1736/14).

North Atlantic

HELIOS

German ship HELIOS reported (14/11) sailed from Huelva night 5/6 Nov. for unknown destination painted black or very dark grey. (C in C.Nore 2002/14).

Convoys.

The Sierra Leone convoy of 28 ships was, at the suggestion of the French, routed so as to pass thfough the area patrolled by their S/M's and A/C's, of the activities of which use had not before been made for protection of convoys to and from Freetown which used to pass outside this protective area (FOC NA 2142/14).

South Atlantic

Force K.

STRASBOURG to return to Brest to refit, returning to Dakar about end December. HERMES to join Force K when STRASBOURG leaves, returning to U.K. when ARK ROYAL rejoins Force K.
ARK ROYAL to return to Portsmouth to exchange A/C's and return to Freetown. (Adty.DOD(F)1616/14)).
Arrangements modified, suggest HERMES replace ARK ROYAL on patrol etc. (Adty DOD(F)1658/15))
Routes(ACWA 1444/15) See also C.in C.SA.2315/15)).

War Diary. 14.11.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Hunting Groups and Convoy Escorts.

STRASBOURG, ARK ROYAL, HERMES, DUNKERQUE. — Arranged that STRASBOURG and ARK ROYAL are to return at once to Brest and Portsmouth. HERMES to join RENOWN. ARK ROYAL will exchange aircraft and then return to Freetown. Request whether DUNKERQUE may coOoperate with HOOD in escorting two Canadian troop convoys from mid-Atlantic in December. (D.O.D. (F), to B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1238/14).

WAR DIARY. 14.11.39
Tuesday

Casualties. M.T.B.Flotilla on way to Marseilles from Malta ran into gale off Sardinia. M.T.B.No.6 which was broken down and in tow of DAINTY sank.
2015 M/S trawler BRITISH ran ashore off Brightstone, I.O.W. Hoped to refloat her 1500/16.
Flying boat K5192 missing 70 miles NE of Sullom Voe at 1555/14. At 1631/14 R.A.(D) reported having saved the crew of 5.

DOTTEREL
ALASKA
GIORGIOS

DOTTEREL (1,385 t) and French ALASKA (5,399 t) in collision evening 7 miles SE St.Catherines. ALASKA sank 0553/15.
GIORGIOS (Greek), 2,216 t) struck wreck of CANADA 1945. Likely to become a wreck. (GEORGIOS 1937/14).Abandoned. Crew landed at Grimsby (FO i/c Humber 1400/15). Proposal to sink wreck by gunfire (Humber Radio 1155/16).

Positions of French ships. AMC QUERCY and 2nd Divn.of S/M's (CASABLANCA (S.O) SFAX, ACHILE, PASTEUR leaving Brest for Halifax 1600 BST.(Adty.1807/13).
1200 CHEVALIER PAUL on patrol near PZ HG 3030, BALISTE on patrol off Cadiz, PANTHERE and TIGRE with convoy OG6, AMC QUERCY and 4 S/M's to leave Brest 1600, 2 ships on patrol off Vigo, 1 AMC on patrol near NQ VV 3030 (Adty.0646/14).

WEATHER.

0500

North Sea. (North, Wind S, strong to gale)visibility
(South, Wind S, moderate)moderate

Horns Reef. Wind SSW, moderate, visibility moderate

Channel. Wind SW, moderate, visibility moderate

Western Approaches. Wind SW, moderate, visibility moderate. Outlook,little change.

Enemy Intelligence
(continued.)

German Merchant ships homing. Lists are given in Weekly Naval Notes 9/11/39 and D.S.72, 14/11/39. Report that 4 German ships including LEANDER were ordered by Berlin to leave Vigo 8/11. Route westward until west of 14°W then northwards to sight SE corner of Iceland, thence to Island of Soroe, Norway, then via Norwegian territorial waters to Germany (AC WA 1726/14). Report (assessed BI) that 6 German ships will leave Vigo before 18/11 including ORIZABA probably counterfeiting Spanish colours (SO(I) Gib.1624/15));

Convoys. When the ships escorting a convoy include various types e.g. destroyers, A/S trawlers and minesweepers the S.O. of destroyers is to carry out the duties of Senior Officer of escort, irrespective of relative seniority (C in C WA 1748/14).
Importance of reducing time on passage and thus assisting general speed up of British Merchant ship traffic. (Adty.ACNS 2259/14) (Adty.1427/13, VA Dover 1427/14, C in C Nore 1257/16).

East Coast anti-S/M patrol. Attack by magnetic mines necessitates maximum concentration of patrol forces on the East Coast, Until sufficient A/S trawlers become available the risk of moored mines on our south and west coasts must be temporarily accepted. Following patrols by A/S trawlers to be established as soon as practicable in endeavour to catch U-boats who may be minelaying off East coast (Adty.0315/14:- (A) Four between Kentish Knock and Galloper.
2003/14 (B) Four between Shipwash and Inner Gabbard.
2200/15 (C) Two to seaward of swept channel near No.6 Buoy.
See also Adty.2158/14, C in C WA 0847/15.
Allocation of trawlers (6 in C Nore 0206/15) of 13/11. See also ACWA 1224/14, Adty.2201/15.

Leakage of information. Leakage of information re destination of Ore ships owing to pro-German sympathies of Ore Companys' employees (Narvik 1246/14).

WAR DIARY

14.11.39
Tuesday

Enemy Air Activity. At 1102 one enemy a/c was reported over the Shetlands. VANP ordered the three cruisers in Sullom Voe to proceed to sea. No attack developed. Between this time and 1315 further reports of enemy air activity in the Shetland area were received from Netherbutton, but no attacks resulted, viz:- Two formations of a/c's were reported about 35 miles ENE of Scapa at midday, proceeding on a northerly course. They do not appear to have flown over either Orkneys or Shetlands. A German seaplane was reported by the herring fleet at 0900 to be taking photographs in approx: position 9 miles NE of Smith's Knoll. A second seaplane was afterwards observed in same vicinity, this a/c was painted green and orange.

Enemy Intelligence The Danish Admiralty announced that floating mines had been observed in the North Sea near Devil's Hole at 0900 and 1000 GMT.

Mines. Mines have been laid in the Thames Estuary probably by S/M's (IC 0268/39).

Mines. There have recently been reports of floating mines near the Skaw. From Copenhagen it is reported that mines have not yet been placed in the declared extension of the Sound minefield, i.e. to within 3 miles of the Swedish coast. (NA Copenhagen 1745/13).

A/A Patrols No confirmation that the line of German anti-aircraft patrol vessels has been extended along the Dutch coast. (IC 0268/39).

BREMEN. Report from a Belgian Radio Station that Bremen seen steaming along Scandinavian coast, date not stated (CCO Weymouth 1200/14). Pilot does not consider she could be safely brought down within territorial waters (OSLO 1100/13) See also 15/11. Informed (no confirmation) large German ship proceeding along West Coast of Norway compelled to leave territorial waters by dangerous shallows at approx: 62° (Kristiansands THI 1135/14).

Leakage of Information. Stated that German agents in S.American ports are sending reports of sailing dates of British ships from such ports, and other intelligence, to Germany by way of NO.I Horta cable which does not touch at any British possession. By this means German ships are assisted to intercept such ships. (M.C.3B, Daily Summary 72 of 14.11.39). A passenger ship of about 13,000 tons painted grey was reported in 71° N 23° E at 1500/11 course W speed 16 knots. (information received 14/11). (Probably a ship leaving Murmansk where German ST.LOUIS (16,732 t) and CORDILLERA (12,055 t) are reported to have been refuging.) (IC 0269/39).

WAR DIARY

14.11.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY and 8 destroyers operating between the Shetlands and Norway, covering the Norwegian Convoy ON 2. AURORA proceeding to cover the Norwegian convoy ON 2 which arrives Bergen 1000/15.

Fleet Base. Re security. Number of neutral ships using Firth of Forth (C. in C. Rosyth 1034/14).

Humber Force. 4 Cruisers, 3 A.A. cruisers and 10 destroyers are in the Humber. Advantages and disadvantages of Immingham base. Request the anti S/M defences may be improved. Establishment of mine depot desirable. (C.S.2 1928/14).

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes	- 3	cruisers	
" Faroes and Iceland	- 3	"	1 A.M.C.
In Denmark Strait	- 1	"	3 "

Tugs One or more powerful tugs needed at Kirkwall to aid H.M. or Merchant ships damaged &c. (FOCNP 1201/4).

PARANA *Scuttled.* NEWCASTLE left Denmark Strait patrol at 2000/13 with 57 of crew of German S.S. PARANA (6,000 t), which was scuttled to avoid capture.

Trawler Patrol. Patrol of trawlers for contraband control and close examination of vessels proceeding westward (FOC NP 1501/13).

Prizes. Any prize captured by Northern Patrol to be sent direct to Leith if she has sufficient fuel (VANP 2105/14).
Further details (Adty.DTD.1851/15).

Air Reconnaissances. In addition to normal patrols anti-S/M searches are being carried out North-West of Cape Wrath and North-West of the Shetlands.

Train Ferry. Harwich-Calais train ferry to be escorted (F.O. Harwich 1241/14.C. in C. Nore 1813/14).

15. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Continued)

North Atlantic

S/ms. reported 1315 in 35° 30' N. 8° 12' W.
1615 in 35° 50' N. 7° 20' W. Latter believed sunk but no confirmation. Above reported from Casa Blanca. (SO(1) Gib. 0301/16) ? Did these refer to French SIROCCO.

War Diary

15. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/ms. reported

0618 by D/F unreliable fix unknown enemy unit probably U-boat. 49° 50' N. 11° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A. 0705/15). Appears to have proceeded Eastward (C. in C. W.A. 1120/15, to BROKE and ECLIPSE.)

2102 by D/F reliable fix unknown enemy unit 53° 50' N. 5° 25' E. (D.N.I. 2301/15.

0554 by D/F reliable fix unknown enemy unit 55° 25' N. 3° 40' E. (D.N.I. 0648/15).

2035 Master Greek ship SVRA/THEODOROS T. reports interrogated in position 43° 14' N., 09° 46' W., by large submarine (F.O.C. N. Atlantic 0002/19).

S/ms. attacked

1310 by KEITH and GRIFFIN attacked contact 90° Tongue Lt.v. 9 miles. Result doubtful. (This was same s/m as 1127 below) (Capt. D(2) 1310/15) see also C. in C. Nore 1234/15. Line of oil centre K.C.S.V. 3040, 315° and reciprocal 3 miles each way. GREYHOUND try locate submerged object at source. Close to position where GRIFFIN and KEITH attacked. (C. in C. Nore 1317/17. Have searched no result (GREYHOUND 1815 (17) Search to continue 18/11.)

1315 By French seaplane (90 miles S.S.E. of Cape St. Vincent) 35° 30' N. 8° 12' W. It is possible that the French destroyer SIROCCO may later have sunk this s/m, 1615/15, in 35o 50' N. 7o 20' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0053/15, 2336/17) (F.O.C.N.A. 2014/15 gives longitude 8° 30' W. and time 1345, VELOX and VIDETTE hunting but this position is amended by F.O.C.N.A. 0053/16) (F.O.C.N.A. 1731/15)

1127 A/c reported indications of s/m under water near Tongue Lt.V. and dropped bombs. (Then see 1310 above)

s/m damaged.

0200 seriously damaged s/m 74 tons reported by Dutch fishermen 4 miles off Hook of Holland. Information received from French N.A. grade B 2 (Naval Hague 1056/15). Course N.E. possibly damaged. 0300 (D.N.I. 0959/15) Search by French destroyers and 3 British a/cs. No result.

Ships sunk

WOODTOWN

1130 ~~SS~~ WOODTOWN (794 tons) which had not been re-routed by the guardship, was mined and sunk off Tongue Lt. V. (C. in C. Nore 1627/15). 8 missing, 4 injured.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued)

Mediterranean.

DUKADIA — German ship DUKADIA sailed from Braila a.m. Destination believed to be Turkey. (C.G. Galati THI 1700/15).

CZ messages — Distribution (Adty. 0015/2/9, C. in C. Med. 1306/15).

LARDRUNKA — German SS. LARDRUNKA arrived Braila (C.G. Galatzi 1715/16)
German SS. EIDER reported discharged at Cagliari (SO(1) Malta 2037/15).

South Atlantic

Force K. — Arrangements for Force K. and French ships based on Freetown and Dakar (C. in C. S.A. 2315/15, 2150/16)
Portuguese ship NYASSA left Lobito 15/11 for Loanda, San Thome, Madeira and Lisbon carrying 35 Germans (SO(1) Cape Town 1401/17)

Australia.

WEISS — WEISS has definitely not visited any Pacific Island on Australian Station in recent times. (Adty. 1855/6, D.N.I. Melbourne 2210/15.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China

DARDANUS — In spite of repeated assurances of authorities in Tokyo the Japanese on the spot continue to detain crew of air liner DARDANUS and to refuse access to them. (Tyrell, Hong Kong 0948/15, 1510Z/12. Mr. Craigie, Hong Kong TEL 2026/14.

Fuelling of H. M. Ships — To avoid friction with Japanese, ships when possible to fuel outside territorial waters or in remote parts of the coast where presence is unlikely to be observed (Adty. 1146/16).

East Indies.

AFRICA SHELL sunk — AFRICA SHELL (coasting petrol tanker 789 tons) attacked by enemy ship 1220 24° 32'S. 35° 12' E. (near Zavora Point about 170 miles N.E.Laurenco Marques). Reported sunk by time bomb. Crew believe pocket battleship responsible. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2201/16) Raider was undoubtedly a German warship (N.C.S.O. Lourenco Marques 1155/17). Officers confident raider was either Spee or Scheer (N.O.I/C Simonstown 1240/21) Master prisoner crew landed Inhambane. Ships in GRAF SPEE (NA Buenos Aires 1345/17)

HOLLAND challenged — SS. HOLLAND (Dutch) reports challenged 2130/15 by unknown ship in position about 25 miles south of where AFRICA SHELL was sunk. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1625/16). Later telegram says HOLLAND was challenged 2130/15/11 in position 19°30 35 miles Zavora Point by one ship using English morse by S/L. Visibility prevented recognition of challenger (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2104/16.). As result certain changes in disposition of ships and hunting groups in Atlantic and Indian Ocean were ordered. See 17/11 D/F bearings of the raider were obtained from U.K.1716 15/11 (D.N.I.1644/16.

North Atlantic

KLAUS SCHOKE)
LUISE BORNHOFEN) — German merchant ship still in the Portuguese Azores. KLAUS SCHOKE 5836 tons, LUISE BORNHOFEN 2030 tons.

HELIOS
ASCUNCION
EILBEK
ANTIOCHIA
TRIFELS — Latest information of German merchant vessels at Azores which may be returning to Germany (R.O.C.N.P. 1430/15) :-
HELIOS sailed Huelva 5/11 or 6/11.
ASCUNCION sailed Las Palmas 10/11.
EILBEK sailed San Miguel 10/11.
ANTIOCHIA and TRIFELS sailed San Miguel 12/11.

KERSTEN MILES — arrived Las Palmas 26/10 and is still there (N.C.S.O. Las Palmas 1715/14). Please describe (SO(1)Gib.1156/15) Ship is at Las Palma not Las Palmas (N.C.SO. Las Palmas 1550/15).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

having encountered heavy weather. (Date of arrival 14/11 (Reykjavik 1726/15) but Adty. 2115/15 says arrived 15/11). Under name OLENDO she called at Hafnar Fiord 14/11 (Reykjavik 1803/14) She was captured by COLOMBO 62° 55' N. 10° 44' W. disguised as Russian DNESTR. Brought to Kirkwall p.m. 19/11, insufficient coal for Leith (COLOMBO 1235/17)

s/ms. missing — "Common report" at Keil that 20 s/ms. are missing from Kiel and Wilhemshaven commands. (N.A. Copenhagen 1035/15).
German ships CHARLOTTE CORDS (1779 tons) from Dantzig and GAUSS (1236 tons) from Bremen arrived Oslo (Consul, Oslo THI 1525/15).

Mines — St. Gilmas channel into St. Nazaire dangerous from drifting mines (ACWA 2006/15)

BREMEN — Reports from coastal look-outs still indicate presence of BREMEN off Norway. Bad weather may oblige her to keep outside territorial waters (Oslo 1400/15).

Fishing areas — West Coast fishing area and additional area in Icelandic waters. (Adty. 2042/31/8, 2058/13/10, 1521/15/11).

Ymuiden reopened — Port of Ymuiden reopened today (C-G, Amsterdam 1225/15) See 12/11.

Positions of French ships — One A.M.C. and s/ms. PASTEUR, CASABIANCA, ACHILLE, SFAX 47½° N. 10½° W. at 1200 for Halifax.
CHEVALIER PAUL (Cr.) 45½° N. 11½° W. on patrol.
One A.M.C. 43½° N. 10½° W. on patrol.
(Admty. 0302/15.

WEATHER.

North Sea — Wind S.W. to W. Strong to gale. Weather rain, Visibility poor.
Horns Reef — Wind S.W. strong to gale. Weather rain, Visibility poor.
Channel — Wind S.W. to W. Strong to gale. Weather rain. Visibility poor.
Western Approaches — Wind W. strong. Weather - showers. Visibility good.

Further outlook similar but visibility improving.

Screening s/ms. In harbour. — Arrangements to screen from aerial observation s/ms. in harbour at Blyth and Harwich. Dummy s/ms. should be supplied. (R.A.(S) 2136/15).

HUGO OLDENDORF — Capture, see Enemy Intelligence.

Economic Warfare. — Preparations now being made for introducing the control of enemy exports, and the establishment of a new control station to relieve the congestion in the Downs is being considered. (Adty.2302/14). Measures to be considered by V.A.N.P. - adjustment of patrol to intercept westbound ships - more harbour accommodation etc. (Adty. 2300/14).

Dutch authorities trying to establish their own Shipping Control organisation and wish copies of certain Admiralty messages. (N.A. Hague 1905/15, D.N.I. 1238/16).

Convoys

Arrangements to prevent numbers of ships waiting under way in exposed and narrow waters in stormy weather and possibly after dark (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1230/15). Admiral at Bergen very pro-British, asks to be advised of dates of sailings and arrivals of convoys (N.A. Oslo 1930/15) No objection (Adty. D.T.D. 1049/17.

Enemy Intelligence

Report of Germans loading seven 10,000 ton ships at Hamburg with casks set in cement. (N.A. HELSINKI 1242/15)

Routes — SS. SANTAFE and GONZENHEIM: Routes taken homeward from Rio de Janeiro 14/10 and Monte Video 15/9 respectively. (Adty. D.N.I. 1205/15).

Kiel Canal Closed — A report has been received that the Kiel Canal was closed to traffic except warships on 8, 9, 10 November. (N. A. Copenhagen 1645/14).

Small A.M.C's in Baltic — Germans reported using small A.M.C's. in Baltic especially near Falsterbo in addition to trawlers and destroyers (Kristiansands T.H.I. 1530/15).

HUGO OLDENDORF captured. — 1373 tons, which left Vigo on 25/10 with cargo of manganese ore, arrived at Reykjavik ? 2115/15. She is reported to have arrived almost without coal or food,

having/

War Diary

15. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

NELSON, RODNEY and 5 destroyers between Faroes and Norway, covering the Norwegian Convoy O.N.2. which is escorted by AURORA, CAIRO and 4 destroyers and expected to arrive Norwegian coast 1000/15.

1st C. S.

Ships of C.S.1. to be based in Clyde during period in harbour to enable work in connection with heating arrangements to be carried out. (Adty. 1st S.L. 2019/15, C. in C. H.F. 1241/16).

Humber Forces

4 cruisers, 2 A.A. cruisers and 10 destroyers in the Humber.

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes 3 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 2 " 1 A.M.C.
In Denmark Strait 1 " 3 "

CARDIFF is remaining at Sullum Voe to protect Manela until arrival of COVENTRY a.m. 16/11. (Cf. 13/11). Until arrival of COVENTRY protection is to be afforded by cruisers of Northern Patrol (Adty. 1st S.L. 1543/14)

A.M.C's.

In view of great importance of increasing number of vessels on Northern Patrol at present it has been decided as temporary measure that A.M.C's to join V.A.N.P. on completion of fitting out trials, without working up at Portsmouth (Adty. D. O.D. (H) 1735/15).

Reconnaissances

(I) Flying boat to locate wreck of the ARNE KJODE 65 miles N.W. of Lewis, Hebrides. (Sunk 12/11) ISIS located her. Ship is broken in two. ISIS standing by after portion, air patrols searching for foremost portion.
(II) Bomber reconnaissance to Terschelling.
(III) Dawn Patrol to Maas Light to attack reported enemy flying boat patrol (Adty. 0019/15).

Mine laying

Operation C.P. in the Clyde was commenced a.m. 15/11. Some mines were found to be shallow and brought to the surface by a minesweeper. As a result the Clyde was closed most of 15/11 and will remain closed until a further sweep has taken place a.m. 16/11.

War Diary

16. 11. 39.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked HOPESTAR (5267 tons) chased (1138) and attacked (1320), Capt. J. Steward, Master of SS. HOPESTAR says 1350 (Interview) by 3 torpedos from s/m 48° 47½' N. 8° 28½' E., D.R. (Lands End Radio 1428/16) (Lands End 1342/16 and 1138/16 give position 48° 43' N. 8° 55' W. at 1237). BROKE and ECLIPSE ordered to hunt (C. in C.W.A. 1952/16). Attacked with torpedoes 3 times by s/m's in position 48° 43' N. 8° 53' W.,D.R. but escaped without casualties. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1600/20.

Estimated position of U-boats.

One in Western Approaches, one 140 miles West of Gibraltar (D.N.I. 1219/16).

SLIEDRECHT sunk 2146 S.S. SLIEDRECHT (Dutch 5133 tons) reported 24/11 torpedoed 150 miles W. of Ireland. British trawler MERISIA picked up 5 survivors night 23/24 Nov. 27 of crew missing. Claimed by the Germans as a British Q-ship.

ARLINGTON COURT sunk 1300 approx. Lifeboats containing 22 survivors of SS. ARLINGTON COURT (4915 tons) picked up by Dutch ship ALGENIB, 120 miles W. Ushant 20/11. She had been in convoy S.L.7. but fell behind. She was sunk 100 miles West of Ushant. 320 miles 248° Start Pt. Torpedoed twice. 28 saved, 3 lost 1 d. (Report of interview with the Master, Capt. Chas. Hurst.)

S/m's. reported 1400 U-boat in position 48° 47' N. 8°28' W. (Adty. D.N.I. 1642/16)

1607 By unreliable D/F fix unknown enemy unit 55° 5' N. 2° 20' E. (Adty. D.N.I.1636/16).

1320 French state s/m reported 48° 47' N. 8° 28' W. at 1320/16. Portuguese state some hours later a ship was attacked in this position (Lisbon 1450/17).

1530 Dutch tug MICO reports s/m of U.20 class 51° 57' N. 3° 24' E. (?) circled ship and dived and steered away N.W. by W. (N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1820/17). (U.21 see 5/1/40)

North Atlantic.

Portuguese ship AFRICA OCCIDENTAL reports that at 1700/5/11 on parallel 32 course Las Palmas Lisbon, she was stopped by German s/m. (Lisbon 1500/16). Rumours (Grade C 5) 6 German s/m's. along coast between Gibraltar and Barcelona. No confirmation (N.A. Madrid 1320/16) (S.O.(I) Gib. 1102/17).

S/m's attacked 1400 Trawlers unsuccessfully attacked U-boat 104° Bardsey I. Light 9 miles. Report considered reliable. (C. in C.W.A. 1015/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued)

0959/17 in reply to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 921, 1059/16/11).

Suspicious ship — 36° 50' N. 0° 0' steamship about 4000 tons Italian flag painted on etc. acting suspiciously 0700/16/11. (SS. RUNO 1021/16).

M.T.-B. 6 sunk. — M.T.-B. 6 sunk in bad weather (see 9/11, 14/11) (C. in C. Med. 0651/16).

East Indies.

Contraband Control-Aden. — Re. accommodation etc. at Aden (N.O.I.C. Aden 1932 Z/16, Adty. 1426/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

German Shipping. Tentative Distribution of German Shipping in Ports Distant from Germany, prizes, sinkings etc. see D.S. 75 of 17/11/39.

North Atlantic.

s/m patrols. No s/ms. British or French available for patrol off coasts of Portugal and South Spain (Adty. D. T.D.(F) 1459/15) see 29/10.

VULCANIA Italian SS VULCANIA: refused to give up German suspects. Boarded by WATCHMAN outside territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1044/16). 50 Germans disembarked from her at Lisbon 15/11. Not known how many are sailors (Lisbon 1630/16) Adty. asks for full report (D.E.W.D. 1331/17).

WINNETOU German tanker WINNETOU appears ready to leave Las Palmas 16/11 B2 (S.O.(1) Gib. 1427/17).

South Atlantic.

ADOLPH WOERMANN WINDHUK Reported these two German ships sailing from Lobito 2100/16. Latter ship may disguise herself as Union Castle Liner (Adty.D.N.I. 1015/17) (S.O.(1) Freetown 1700/17)

Routeing of ships. Fast Union Castle liners being routed to Freetown in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1450/10/11. (N.C.S.O. Cape Town 1130/16) Further re-routeing (C. in C.S.A. 1720/16)

C. C. Staffs. C. C. staffs at Lagos, Takoradi and Port Harcourt to be reduced (C. in C. S.A. 1838/15).

America & West Indies.

SIDI-FERRUCH (Fr. s/m) 0735 returned to Port of Spain from Trinidad patrol (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1045/16)

Fuelling Bases. Adty. cannot accept Argentine claim that English Bank lies within Argentine territorial waters. Concur however in present arrangement that it will not be used except when weather conditions require. (Adty.1154/16, Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D., A & W.I.1227/8).

Dutch Protest. Protest re H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY accused of violating territorial waters 11/11. Explains how misconception of Dutch authorities arose. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1417/16).

Mediterranean.

French Detached Force French Detached Force passed Gibraltar 0015/16 East to West (S.O.(1)Gib.1204/16). For composition see 14/11.

Convoys. Not intended that ships for Mediterranean ports should be sailed in convoy. (C. in C. Med.

16.11.39.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

A.M.C. QUERCY 47° 30' N. 9° 30' W. course 260° E.V's BREVIERE, ELAN, P 13, P 37 in 41° 10' N. 9° 50' E. with convoy course 180°, P.34, P 32 in 46° 30'N. 6° 10' W. course 035 (Adty.0716/16) TIGRE, PANTHERE arrived Gibraltar 1800 (S.O.(1) Gib. 1802/16).

Suspicious trawler. Drifter HELPING HAND sighted suspicious trawler 1200, 25 miles N.E by N Cromer (C.in C. Nore 1305/2C) WEATHER.

North Sea .. .. Wind S.W. moderate, Visibility good, Cloudy.
Horns Reef .. " S.W. Light " " Fair.
Channel .. .. " S.W. moderate, " mod. Rain in west.
Western Approaches " S.W. Strong " poor, Rain.
Further outlook - Unsettled.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

a/c concentration — Heavy concentration of bombers reported 5/11 (q.v.) has not yet dispersed (N.A. Copenhagen) 1815/16).

U.105 — Reported U.105 Kapitan Leut. Fischer, latest s/m to be put into service (N.A. Hague 1840/16).

NIOBE — Arrived 16/11 (Trondhjem) 1000/17).

A/c's. to use Hythe. — Re. use of Hythe by Imperial Airways (C. in C. Portsmouth's letter No. 3547/9950(51) of 31.10.39, Adty. Hd. of M. 2043/15).

s/ms. — Positions of s/ms. 0700/16. (Adty. D.C.1940/15)
A. One in Zone C.
B. One in Zone C 2.
C. One in Zone V L J N.
D. One in Zone Y X L Z.
E. One in H T L Z 204°.
F. One arriving Rosyth a.m. 16/11.

Convoys. — Arrangements to ensure convoys should not arrive in Downs during darkness on north-going tidal stream (Adty. D.T.D.1333/16) (A.C.W.A. 1314/18).
Decisions of Neutrals to join convoys probably affected by rumours of attack on previous convoy. Propose official denial (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1136/16).

Speeding up of Shipping. — Routes given to vessels sailing independently not to exaggerate distance on passage more than necessary (Adty. D.T.D.1229/16).
C. in C. Mediterranean asks for information of proposed agreements with Swedish Government whereby surplus Swedish tonnage will be placed at disposal of British charterers. (C. in C. Med. 2309/16).

Casualties

VELOCE — SS. VELOCE reported aground near Dungeness Lt. Ho. (V.A. Dover 0550/16).

FLAMINGO — 2107 FLAMINGO with Convoy F.N.37 reported she had been in collision with SS. LOWLAND.
Proceeding to Rosyth, LOWLAND undamaged.

Trainferries — Trainferry time tables 16/11 to 18/11 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1151/15; 1810/15, 1258/16, 2208/16.)

Positions of French ships. — LORRAINE (Battleship) MARSEILLAISE (C), JEAN-DE-VIENNE (Cr.) passing Gibraltar westbound 0001/16.
CHEVALLIER PAUL 45° 50' N. 11° 30' W. 1200/16 patrolling, A.M.C. CHARLES 44° 10' N. 10° 50 W. ditto, P 41 and P 38 patrolling off Vigo, s/m's CASABLANCA, SFAX, PASTEUR, ACHILLE escorted by

A.M.C./

War Diary

16.11.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet — NELSON, RODNEY and 5 destroyers between Faroes and Norway, covering Norwegian convoy. C. in C. H.F. has ordered 6 destroyers to join him in position 63 miles East of Faroe Is. at 1500/16. C. in C. then intends to proceed towards Iceland. AURORA, CAIRO and 4 destroyers escorting convoy H.N. 2 which left Norwegian territorial waters at 1500/15.

Harbour Defence Patrol Craft. — Re-allocation of Scottish fishing craft and yachts for work in Orkneys and Shetlands as Harbour Defence Patrol craft (Adty. D of L.D. 6014/17).

Humber Force — Four cruisers, 2 A.A. Cruisers and 10 destroyers in the Humber.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes .	3	cruisers	
" Faroes " Iceland	2	"	2 A.M.C.'s
In Denmark Strait	1	"	3 "

Reprisals suggested for U-boat campaign — C. in C. Home Fleet is sure ships of Northern Patrol are doing all they can to bring in enemy merchant ships (this was re MECKLENBURG (see 12/11) which DELHI was unable to prevent crew from scuttling in heavy weather). He suggests reprisals for sinking at sight by U-boats, viz. for every ship sunk without crew being placed in safety the crew of one self-scuttled German merchant ship to be left to take its chance in open boats. (Adty. 0013/13, 2233/13, F.O.C.N.P. 1201/14, C. in C. H.F. 2019/24/9. 1527/6 and A.L.M 010387/39 of 3/10/39).

Air Reconnaissance — In addition to normal air reconnaissance an A/S search West of Lewis will be made today. Air escort for F.N. 37 (Thames to Firth of Forth) convoy to be provided p.m. (Donibristle 1003/16).

Minelaying — Operation FE.1 off Dover has been completed.

E. Coast anti-s/m patrols. — A/s and M/s trawlers taking up patrol position. (C. in C. Nore 0700/16) see 14/11. Alterations in organisation of patrols: searching of swept channels etc. (C. in C. Nore 1601/16 cancelling his 0206/15 - see 14/11).

Enemy Intelligence. — LIPPE / TREUENFELS) German SS. LIPPE and another ship name unknown (TREUENFELS (Narvik 1211/17)) arrived probably for ore (Narvik 1629/16).

German Fleet. — SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, SPEE, NÜRNBERG, HIPPER, EMDEN are reported to have been in the Wilhelmshaven - Heligoland area between Nov. 8 and 12. (Adty. 1219/16).
Tentative Distribution of German Shipping see D.S. 75(17/11/39).

CHARLOTTE CORDS.	Has sailed from Oslo (Oslo 1434/16).
VULKAN.	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1136/16)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

1815 SALAMINIA (Greek) was stopped by large s/m 45° 23'N, 7° 56' W (100 miles) (I.C. 0275/39)

S/ms. reported

0028 48° 5'N. 6° 32' W. unreliable D/F fix (C. in C. W.A. 0755/17, 0925/17) to BROKE and ECLIPSE. Two French destroyers from Brest proceeding to hunt (C. in C. W.A. 1003/17 to BROKE and ECLIPSE) Also sent by C. in C. W.A. 0302/17 to VANESSA, VESPER, VIVACIOUS.
0040 61° 10' N. 0° 30' W. position unreliable (probably a U-boat homeward bound I.C.0271/39) (Adty. D.N.I. 0945/17).
1734 S/m reported by D/F off Vigo (D.N.I. 1814/17).
1700 French reported s/m 48° 45' N. 0° 5' W. (Brest Lanveoc Poulmic Radio 1840/17).
1440 s/m reported 57° 44' N. 5° 52' W. steering N. on surface (C. in C. H.F.1735/17).
1900 M/s trawler CORSHA reported U-boat 50° N. 4° 35' W. WOLVERINE and VERITY sailing to hunt. (C. in C. W.A. 2037/17)
1630 S/m sighted from shore in Druridge Bay 3 miles N. of Blyth about 1630 (C. in C. Rosyth 1722/17).

Reliably reported U-boat expected off Kerry Coast between 16 and 18/11. (C. in C. W.A. 1902/17. D.N.I. 2138/17).

SALAMINIA (Greek) reported 20/11 that large s/m stopped her 1715 GMT 17/11 in 45° 23'N, 7° 56' W (C.C.O. Weymouth) 1106/20).

S/ms. attacked

2031 10° 1½ miles Outer Dowsing reported and attacked by A/S trawler CAPE ARGONA (C. in C. Nore. 0110/18).
1803 By WALLACE 10 miles N.E. Blyth. No results seen. (WALLACE 1100/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued)

Singapore, all captures and sinkings of German merchant ships, as all are potential raiders (This was being done) (C. in C. China, 0935 Z/17.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Contraband Control of Italian Ships.

Undertaking now in force not to examine ships plying between Italy and the Mediterranean colonies (C. in C. Med. 1159/28/10, Adty. 1159/17/11, 1158/17/11).

Propose Circular Shipping Adviser to be sent to Galatz and Reporting Officer to Rustchuk. (D.N.I. 2212/17.)

North Atlantic

Vessels of 15 knots and over may now call at Lisbon if homeward bound (Adty. D.T.D. 1959/17)

China

Japanese claim that bays and inlets whose entrances are 10 miles or less across are within territorial waters. Ships are to observe this claim for the present unless urgent naval necessity demands infringement. (N.A. Tokyo 0547 Z/17).

America and West Indies.

SIDI-FERRUCH (French s/m) sailed for Martinique direct 1015 (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1325/17).

FRIESLAND
MONSERRATE
LEIPZIG

International Petroleum Coy. have been asked to sell 800 tons deisel oil to each of these 3 German ships, first named in Paita, latter in Callao. This is believed to be enough for 80 days steaming. Company have refused supply. A.1. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1644/17).

REPULSE)
FURIOUS)
damaged.

REPULSE sustained damage to breakwater, affects fighting efficiency (FURIOUS 0648/17)
Anticipate defect completed p.m. 20/11 (FURIOUS) (2135/18).
FURIOUS engine trouble; speed limited to 23 knots (FURIOUS 0832/17).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Dispositions. In view of sinking ofAFRICA SHELL+ N.E. of Lourenco Marques, 15/11, following decisions taken:-
MALAYA to remain with Force J.
RAMILLIES+ is at your disposal.
Australian destroyers at your disposal.
KENT and SUFFREN to form Hunting Force M if French agree.
Force H to return to the Cape.
RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to proceed towards the Cape.
Force G. to remain on their station.
Suggested Renown and Ark Royal should proceed direct to Mauritius to fuel so as to avoid being seen at Capetown.
French Ministry of Marine being asked that STRASBOURG should remain at Dakar.
(D.O.D.(F), 0054/17).
(to C.in C., E.Indies).

Force "X", SUFFREN, STRASBOURG, PROVENCE. My 0027/17. Admiral Darlan agrees to proposal re SUFFREN. He offers to replace STRASBOURG in Force X either by two 8" cruisers or battleship PROVENCE.
(D.O.D. (F), 1926/17).

South Atlantic.

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL. My 0027/17 and C. in C., S.A.'s 1305/18. ARK ROYAL and RENOWN sailed from Freetown 2200/18 for Diego Suarez. Estimated time of arrival A.M. Tuesday, 5th Dec. Fuel requirements. (D.O.D. (F), 1148/19).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

Force G. Force G. to proceed to Rio de Janeiro area (Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D, A.W.I.0352/17)

Force H. Force H. is to return to Simonstown and/or Cape Town forthwith at best possible speed and complete with fuel. CUMBERLAND and EXETER (Force G.) are to return to Plate area completing with fuel and concentrating as ordered by Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D. A & W.I. The orders for Forces G. and H. of 8/11 to exchange stations were cancelled (C. in C. S.A. 0525/17). Cancel my 0525/17. CUMBERLAND and EXETER proceed to Rio de Janeiro area at economical speed and in accordance with Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D.'s 0352/17 (vide above) not to EXETER (C. in C.S.A. 1720/17) Force H. to close Lobito at best possible speed (C. in C S.A.1055/17) This was in consequence of report re ADOLPH WOERMANN and WINDHUK. Confirmed report from Consul, Lobito these 2 ships sailed Nov. 16 (C. in C. S.A. 1655/17).

Freetown Minefield Proposal to lay controlled minefield off Freetown (Adty. D of L.D. 1510/17)(C. in C. S.A. 2001/26).

ADOLPH WOERMANN
WINDHUK
~~SAO PAULO~~

Reported from Walvis W/T station 0645/17 to H.M.S. NEPTUNE to be sailing 2100 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0757/17). Reported sailed from Lobito 2100/16 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1604/17).

SAO PAULO German SS. SAO PAULO sailing for Cabedello, Parahiba River, tonight, probably intends to load with cotton already purchased there for Germany (S.O. (1) Monte Video 2350/16)

WAGOGO German ship WAGOGO reported ready to leave Lobito 0857/17. (N.B. I/C Simonstown 1836/17 to Force H.)

S/m reported. S/m was sighted on surface approx. 35' N.E. Isolcanhar Lt. Ho. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1825/24)

East Indies.

Raiders. D/F indications that two raiders were in position 20° S. 40° E. about 1800/15. (Chief of Intelligence Staff, Far East (0505 Z/17). Possibility of two units in area 20° S. 40° E. Further reported Dutch ship stopped at night by 2 warships, date unknown (TERROR, Singapore 0817/17) Position of German raider at 1600/17 was within 200 miles 32° S. 42° E. plotting from four D/F bearings (C. in C. Hong Kong 1009 Z/18) W/T identical with German heard, believed originated off East Africa coast and not at great distance (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1957/17).

Force J. MALAYA and DARING are to continue to form part of Force J. after arrival of RAMILLIES and DELIGHT. (C. in C. E.I. 0429 Z/18).

China

Re communicating to C. of I.S., Far East,

Singapore/

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Kattegat patrol for many days. (N.A. Copenhagen 1715/17). Information comes from reliable Captains (D.N.I. 1287/18) (N.A. Copenhagen 1750/18).

ROLANDSECK — From Vigo reported arrival Hamburg (Consul Cadiz 1152/17).

WOLFRAM — Arrived Narvik 17/11 (Adty. 2331/17).

LEDA — Arrived (Oslo 1433/17).

German minefields. — Master of Danish S.S. KAISERINDE DAGMAR (sailing today for Sweden) states that on voyage Baltic to Holland he was held up at Stettin for 9 days by Germans investigating cargo. Reports minefield across Cadet Channel 54° 28' N, 12° 10' E. in southeasterly direction to German coast. Heavy boom across Kiel Fiord at narrowest part before it broadens out to Kiel Bay. (F.O. Humber 1900/17).

Positions of French Ships. — At 1200/17 (Adty. D.C.0100/17). LE CHEVALLIER PAUL on patrol. SIROCCO, FRONDEUR, CHEVREUIL with convoy 80 miles W. of Oporto course N. TROMBE 30 miles S.W. St. Vincent course 150°. BALISTE off Cadiz on patrol. QUERCY 4 submarines. PZNE 4030 course 260°.

WEATHER.

North Sea: Wind North, moderate, visibility good, cloudy.
Horns Reef: " West " " " "
Channel: " " moderate to fresh. Visibility poor, Rain.
Western Approaches: " " fresh to strong. Visibility moderate, cloudy.

Further outlook - No change.

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HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Casualties

A/s trawler DRAINGY damaged in collision (C. in C. Rosyth 2002/17).
FLAMINGO damaged in collision with SS. DOWLAND 1938 54° 38' N. 0° 46' W. Require docking (FLAMINGO 1322/17)
KASHMIR damaged. Details?
REPULSE, damage to breakwater, affects fighting efficiency (FURIOUS 0648/17).
CALCUTTA requires 72 hours out of action at early date (F.O. Humber 1534/17).

VIGO

SS. VIGO which was drifting without bunkers reported arrived in harbour 0150. (Cullercoats from Farsund Radio) 1157/16. Farsund reported her drifting without bunkers in strong W.N.W. gale, last position 15/11 at 1700 G.M.T. 57° 47' N. 5° 57' E., not fitted with radio, tonnage 1100 D.W. (Cullercoats Radio).

THETIS

RHODORA and THETIS sailed for Liverpool 0846 (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0930/17) Arrived 2145 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2204/17).

CONVOYS.

Icelandic fishing convoy sailed 0715 with armed escort ship "N" Class (N.O.I.C. Grimsby 1230/17)

Interception Search by GALLANT

Orders to GALLANT for search in Western Approaches for German merchant vessels reported leaving Vigo. (A.C.W.A. 1707/17).

GLORIA

German prize arrived Leith 1700 (N.O.I.C. Leith 1730/17).

Fishing Areas

See Adty. D. T. D. 1751/17, 1840/17, 1316/19.

Enemy Intelligence

FRANKENWALD passed Haugesund northward 1255 (Haugesund) (1256/17).

LIZA.

Information received that German cargo vessel LIZA 1000 tons, registered at Hamburg with mixed crew of Poles and Germans sailed Antwerp for Germany 1700/16. Poles intend to mutiny and take ship to Thames. Have asked for assistance if met. If sighted LIZA is to be sent to Ramsgate with prize crew on board. (C. in C. Nore, 0037/17 to KEITH) See also ELIZA 5/11.

Intelligence from A/c Reconnaissance (see above)

1255 suspected minesweepers near Spiekeroog moving West very slowly. Off Schilling Flying Station 4 B/r's steering N. 15 knots followed by 2 large ocean going ships and passing a B/C at anchor, 2nd B.C. proceeding North with supply pipe vessel alongside. Another s/m same size moving N. just S. of B/C at anchor. Wilhemshaven 2 B/C's; 1 large vessel in dry dock covered with red lead paint (HIPPER) (H.Q. Coastal Command 2114/17) See also H.Q.C.C. 0048/18.

Kattegat Patrol

No modern surface craft or a/c observed on

Kattegat/

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HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

C. in C. Home Fleet has abandoned his operation owing to bad weather and expects to arrive at Port A. with NELSON, RODNEY and 10 destroyers at 0700/17.

CAIRO and 4 destroyers are covering Convoy H.N.2 which is now off the Orkneys.

SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, BELFAST and 4 Tribals arrive Rosyth from Humber 0700/17.

AURORA arrives Rosyth from covering H.N.2 at 0700/17.

2nd A/S Striking Force

From 2359/19 the ships of First A/S Striking Force attached to Home Fleet are to form the 2nd A/S Striking Force (Adty. D.O.D(H)1339/17).

Humber Force

2 A.A. cruisers and "J" class destroyers remain in the Humber.

Northern Patrol.

Between Orkneys and Faroes ..	2	cruisers	
" Faroes " Iceland	2	"	2 A.M.C's.
In Denmark Strait	1	"	3 "

NORFOLK sails from Portsmouth 1330/17 for Northern Patrol, calling at Clyde en route for instructions.

Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal daily air reconnaissance A/S air patrols operating West of the Hebrides and in the Minch Channels.
Air escort for FS 38 (Firth of Forth to Thames) convoy (Donibristle 1635/16). Reconnaissance of Heligoland Bight and N.W. German ports by Blenheim a/c of Bomber Command-see Enemy Intelligence.

E. Coast anti-s/m Patrols

A/s and m/s trawlers taking up new positions (see 14/11) (C. in C. Nore 0603/17). Night patrol by destroyers instituted off Outer Dowsing to seaward of Trawler patrols G. and H. Destroyers will be made available by reducing the A/A escort to each East Coast convoy by one destroyer (Adty. D & D.(H)1207/17)

Submarine patrols.

3rd S/M Flotilla based on Harwich is for present to be held to meet any special requirement in the south of the North Sea. 2nd and 6th s/m Flotillas now to be used to maintain patrols in the zones proposed by C. in C. Home Fleet with the addition of the Terschelling zone; latter to have priority and be kept filled. 3rd s/m Flotilla to take over Terschelling zone when it is increased to 6 s/ms. (Adty. D. O.D (H) 1232/17).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

BLACKHILL sunk	1240	SS BLACKHILL (2492 tons) sunk by mine 1450 7½ cables Longsand Head Buoy. GIPSY recovered 23/1 survivors, 2 men (VADaver 1644/19 says one) and pilot reported drowned, captain injured. Not in convoy (C. in C. Nore 0615/19).
WIGMORE.	2330	B.S.T. British trawler 345 tons sunk by explosion mine or torpedo, at 2330 B.S.T. 25 miles N. by W. Rattray Head, all crew presumed lost. (C. in C. Rosyth 1613/19) Position DVVR 0557 (C. in C. Rosyth 1534/19)
Attacked. WIGMORE destroyed.	2330	Trawler WIGMORE (350 t) which was in the Icelandic Fishing Convoy was completely destroyed by explosion 25 miles N by W. of Rattray Head. ? Torpedo not mine. Position 57° 59' N. 2° 6' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 2253/21, this gives date incorrectly as 19/11 not 18/11) (crew (16) lost)
S/M's reported.	1942	By D/F unknown naval unit probably U-boat 48° 40' N. 7° 0' W. (C. in C.W.A. 2112/18) Reliable fix (Adty. 2053/18)
	1430	D/F position very reliable report enemy unit probably U-boat 49° 40' N. 12° 0' W. (C. in C. W.A.1551/18) ECHO, WANDERER, hunt (C. in C. W.A. 1742/18)
	1100	Un s/m ennemi 45° 10' N. 7° 38' W. 1220/18/11 Amiral Ouest (Brest Radio T.O.R. 2122/18)
	1440	By D/F unreliable fix position of unknown enemy unit 55° N. 5° E. (D.N.I. 1520/18)
S/M's attacked.	1430	Following reliable D/F report at 1430 search by ACASTA, ARDENT, WINCHELSEA, and WALPOLE 150 miles S.W. of Berehaven, on their way to meet a homecoming Halifax convoy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. SIMON BOLIVAR sunk.

83 K+m
317 Saved
82 Injured
X later reported torpedoes (Master of s.s. GENEVA, who saw the tracks). Also Master J.J. MACGUIRE.

Dutch liner SIMON BOLIVAR (8309 tons) mined 2 miles N.E. of Longsand Head Buoy after being struck by 2 mines[X] at 10 minutes interval. 265 passengers, 140 crew on board 140 lost approx. The survivors were in a terrible condition from fuel oil, and even the mess decks of the ships in which the survivors were received have been temporarily rendered uninhabitable on account of this. 8 dead, 88 missing, 84 in hospital, 225 survivors, (Adty Deputy Capt. 0758/19)
Position about 51° 49½' N. 1° 41' E. GREYHOUND trawlers MAN O' WAR, WARWICK, DANEMAN, WELLARD, LADY ELSE, Tug FAIRPLAY II took off survivors (C. in C. Nore 0615/19)

1350 GMT Reykjavik Radio heard distress call from ship 67° 0' N. 26° 30' W.
No name or call sign (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1351/18)
Received by Ottawa from Reykjavik Radio at 1621/ G.M.T.) The position is N.W. of Iceland.

CARICA 1155 MILICA sunk.

CARICA MILICA (Jugoslav 6370 tons, gross 3927 tons net, Master Miljevic) from Tyne to Dunkirk, struck mine 3½ miles N. 5° E. from Shipwash Lt. V. Crew 26 and pilot all saved.
(F.O. i/c Harwich 1635/18)

J.J. MACGUIRE Mined - saved.

Capt. J. Girling.

JAMES J MACGUIRE (Br. 10525 tons) tanker mined while in station in OA 37 Thames to Western Approaches Convoy) fourth ship of the line. Two explosions - was taken to Harwich. Tugs have been sent from London Intend to dock her at Tilbury. Water being kept down by pumps. (C. in C. Nore 1951/18)
1½ miles S. by E. from Longsand Head Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1849/18) Small German type ship crossed J.J. MACGUIRE's track just before she blew up. suspicious circumstances. (C. in C. Nore 1726/19)

~~GREYHOUND.~~

Dutch S.S. GREYHOUND (t) sinking near North Shipwash Light. V. All shipping stopped at Southend and Northbound shipping for Thames stopped in Downs. D 22 ordered to stop shipping entering Thames Estuary past Sunk and Shipwash. (C. in C. Nore 1307/18.) Must be an error in ship's name. There is no ship name Greyhound.

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America and West Indies.

French ships.

AMIRAUTY in company with 4 French s/m's 0400/18 estimated 45° 5' N. 28° 40' W. steering for 42° 0' N. 51° 0' W. (C. in C. A. W. I. 0128/18)
Possible enemy warship fuelling at Gatico or Quilca (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0645/18) May be DESPATCH who has arranged to fuel from oiler ORANGELEAF at Chimicha I., Pisco Bay. 19/11 (C. in C.AW.I. 1612/18)

Cable ship escort.

Western Union have now cancelled request for escort for cable ship. (Adty 2008/18)

Mediterranean.

VULCANIA boarded.

Suspected Italian connivance at Germans from Africa entering Italy en route for Germany (Adty. D.N.I. 1834/18) See boarding of VULCANIA (Hd. of M. 1352/19. F.O.C.N.A. 1614/20)

C.C. Italian ships.

In view of decision not to examine Italian ships plying between Italy and Massawa watch to be kept on cargoes of these vessels ostensibly as part of arrangements for security of Suez Canal. (Hd. of M. 1700/18)

Positions of French ships.

1400 BORDELAIS (destroyer) escorting s/m's CAIMBAN, MORSE, SOUFFLEUR, passed westbound (S.O.(I) Gib. 1502/18) 1641 one Battleship LORRAINE class, 2 cruisers MARSEILLAISE class, LION and one other of similar class passed westbound (S.O.(I) Gib. 1850/18)

FOREIGN STATIONS

NorthAtlantic.

NORD ATLANTIC — German tanker, alterations to. Has finished trans-shipment at Vigo. (Adty. 0047/18)

MOREA — Alterations do.

South Atlantic.

W/T heard.
ADOLPH WOERMANN
WINDHUK

Ship heard transmitting English and German on W/T. (N. O. i/c Simonstown 2257/18)
ADOLPH WOERMANN left Lobito 18/11 (F.O.C.N.P 1238/19)
WINDHUK left Lobito 18/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1238/19)
meterological organisation (see East Indies)

East Indies.

Raider see 15/11. — Description of raider which sank AFRICA SHELL. Definitely not NÜRNBERG/ LEIPZIG nor KÖLN class. Fairly definitely established ship was larger than DEUTSCHLAND class. Not diesel engine. Am of opinion ship is ELSASS class.(N.C.S.O. Lourenco Marques 1444/18)
N.O. i/c Simonstown 1240/17, 1511/18.

re AFRICA SHELL.

RE AFRICA SHELL — Asking for confirmation of report that AFRICA SHELL was sunk inside Portuguese territorial waters (D.N.I. 1434/18)
) Further description of raider (N.C.S.O. Lourenco Marques 1307/17).
and N.O. i/c Simonstown 2358/20 which says ship attacked just outside 3 mile limit and no case for argument in this respect.
N.O. i/c Durban ordered to continue sailing British merchant ships to ports in Mozambique Channel, to keep close to Portuguese East Africa territorial waters (N.O. i/c Simonstown) 1227/16, 1437/19).
Naval war meteorological organisation to be brought into force in East Indies and South Atlantic Commands. Iraq not included (Head of M. 0941/18)

Force J.
DARING.

RAMILLIES, DELIGHT joined forceJ. Orders (S.O. Force J. 0832Z/18)
DARING's programme (DARING 1846Z/18)
Seaplane believed German was sighted off Bhindi at mouth of Zambesi R. (I.C. 0279/39)

China.

Suggestion that s/m's be employed on west coast of Sumatra between the Sunda Straight and Achin Head (Adty. D.O.D.(F) 1307/18)
Reported only German merchant ships trading in Far East fitted with H/F transmitters are SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and POTSDAM (Adty. D.N.I. 1802/18)

M.T.B's. — Unlikely any M.T.B's can be sent to Singapore for several months (Adty D. of L.D. 1450/18)

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS

Owners Communicating with Merchant Ships.

Existing arrangements for communications from ship owners etc. regarding movement s of their ships. (Adty. 1658/17)

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

Neutrals Suspected of Minelaying.

F.O.I.C. Harwich reports strong feeling that mines are being laid by steamers under neutral colours and not by s/m's. No contacts had been obtained by A/S patrol near sunk Lt. V. night before and shipping used the channel freely and without mishap. Neutral ships have been observed behaving erratically. Suggest operation with 22nd Flotilla to board shipping that is not recognisable with certainty at a next likely point of attack on shipping, say off Humber (C. in C. Nore 1759/18)

NORDEN — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1204/18)
TRAUTENFELS — Still here with all names painted out (do)

BREMEN
NEW YORK — Captain of Norwegian S.S. BREDA confirms BREMEN due to leave Murmansk 19/11. Also while off Norwegian coast he passed NEW YORK disguised as small ship- considers she left Murmansk 4 to 5 days ago. (C. in C. Rosyth 2331/18) Disguise of both ships (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/18) BREMEN See 21/11.

AJAX. — Sailed (Consul Oslo 1421/18)

0842 unknown vessel believed communicating with German s/m off Outer Dowsing (C. in C. Rosyth 1747/20).

WEATHER

North Sea.	Wind	W. Mod.	Visibility	poor.	weather	Cloudy fog patches
Horns Reef	"	W Mod.	"	poor	"	Cloudy.
Channel	"	W. Mod.	"	poor	"	Overcast or hazy.
Western Approaches	"	S.W. Mod.	"	Poor	"	Drizzle, fog, patches

Polish Naval co-operation. — Agreement for co-operation of certain units of Polish Navy with British Navy signed today. (Press).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (CONT.)

Anti-S/M Obstructions. Second set of submarine detection equipment for boom defence vessels to be installed in vessels of the Hoxa Boom at Scapa. (D.A.S.W. 1833/19).

Convoys. Arrangements for East Coast convoys escort in view of shortage of escort vessels (C. in C. Rosyth 1056/18 Adty. D.T.D. 1902/18).
Estimated positions of convoys 2000 18/11 (ACWA 1456/18)
Considered essential to institute Northward and Southward bound East Coast convoys every day at earliest moment. Tyne should become Northern terminal for main East Coast convoy. Local convoys escorted by trawlers should run every day between Tyne and Firth of Forth. Remarks as to staffs, escorts, etc. requested from C. in Cs. Nore and Rosyth and F.Os. i/c, Tyne, Humber and London (D.T.D. 1301/18)
Requirements 15 escort vessels. A.A. cruisers and destroyers will also be required daily in Humber district. These also to be based at Tyne under Capt. D. Escort Vessels.
Arrangement of swept channels so that different routes can be used by north and south bound convoys when passing in the dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1945/18).
If French can provide necessary destroyer ocean escorts it is under consideration to institute fast U.K. to Gibraltar and Gibraltar to U.K. convoys as soon as possible.
Re. C. in C.W.A's. escort vessels etc. (D.O.D.(F)1308/18

Northern Route. Port of Lulea expected remain open until mid-December unless sudden cold sets in (Stockholm 1214/18).

Base for 3rd S.F. Harwich to be used as base for 3rd Submarine Flotilla as long as necessity exists for S/M patrol in southern part of North Sea (R.A.(S) 1304/18)
Expect 5 S/Ms. of 3rd S.F. will be available by 24/11 (R.A.S. 0941/20).

BORKUM. captured. German prize, 3670 tons, intercepted 18/11 in Denmark Strait by CALIFORNIA, left for Leith 18/11. Expect to arrive 24/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1237/19). Attacked by s/m and set on fire par. 23/11 on way for Clyde.

THETIS Safely delivered into Cammel Laird's basin (Salvagium Hoylake THI 0802/18).

Positions of French Ships. Noon 18/11 (Adty. D.C.0117/18) VAUQUELIN, TARTU (cruisers) with convoy H.G.7.
SIROCCO, FRONDEUR (destroyers), CHEVREUIL (Escort V.) with convoy in 44° N. 9° E. course N.E., A.M.C. with cruiser CHEVALLIER PAUL and T.Bs. FLORE and BOUCLIER about 43° N. 13½° W. on patrol. Two escort vessels on patrol off Vigo.

War Diary.

18. 11. 39,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Magnetic Mines. Possible that serious attack may be made by magnetic mines laid by submarines on all ports to which approaches are less than twenty fathoms. So far it has not been possible to sweep these mines. Importance of preventing minelaying submarines approaching harbours on the surface at night. (D.O.D.(H), 2117/18).

18.11.39.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. The Home Fleet is in Port A.
SOUTHAMPTON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, BELFAST, AURORA, CAIRO and 11 destroyers in Rosyth.

Northern Patrol.
Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 3 cruisers, 3 A.M.Cs.
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.Cs.

Air Reconnaissances. In addition to normal patrols, a Coastal Command flight of 3 a/cs. will patrol with the object of intercepting enemy reconnaissance a/cs. Two Hudson Battle flights will be sent out for the same purpose.

Enemy mine-fields. Thames approaches. Following the mining of the Edinburgh Channel on 13/11 the Germans have now mined the entrance to the Black Deep and Shipway Channels. To counteract this ships proceeding in or out of the Thames are being routed by a special channel north of the Sunk Lt. Vessel and through Barrow Deep. Special patrols are in force to control traffic and to endeavour to prevent further minelaying. Sailings from Southend and Ramsgate stopped (C.in C. Nore, 1920/18).

Air Activity. A reconnaissance of 3 or more enemy a/cs. was made over the north end of the Thames Estuary at 2050. The machines were reported not to have come below 4000 feet.

Clyde mine-field. Operation C.P. Line C. was laid 18/11. Several mines were again found to be shallow but the channel has since been swept to a depth of 8½ fathoms, and the port is open. Laying of Line D. has been suspended pending further investigation.

Western Approaches. Disposition of forces at 1800/18 (C. in C. W.A. 1823/18)

Anti-S/M Patrols. SCOTT, destroyers and anti-S/M vessels are to be used to establish patrol to prevent S/M's minelaying in approaches to Liverpool and Bristol Channel ports. It is probable that U-Boats work on surface at night and lay magnetic mines in less than 20 fathoms. (A.C.W.A. 1654/18).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's attacked.

1300 — By A/c on patrol 40 miles N.W. Cape Wrath. Unsuccessful. Four destroyers sailed to hunt, but obtained no contact.

1350 — See PENSILVA 1220.

1250 (1123) — One enemy S/M LMJT 0045 180° 3 knots (Duty L. 269 Sqn 1250/19). have attacked, estimate no hits (Duty L.269 Sqn. 1300/19) FURY and MASHONA leaving to hunt, 2 more destroyers follow (C-in-C H.F. 1328/19) Detailed report (HQCC.1930/19) Time of a/c attacks 1123,1127. KEITH and one destroyer from ~~enemy~~ convoy HG6A dropped d/c's 1153,1208.

S/M's reported.

1010 — From shore St.Abbs Head by Observer Corps S/M broke surface and dived again almost immediately (Doinbristle 1015/19).

1110 — By D/F U-boat 315° Cape Finisterre 120 miles (C-in-C W.A.1247/19), to CHACAL and TARTU.

0149 B.G.T. — Suspected s/m near Kentish Knock (Chatham A.C. H.Q.0925/19).

1150 — Suspected U-boat 46°51'N.11°26'W (Brest 1210/19).

1600 — S/M reported seen proceeding to seaward from Wicca Cove near St. Ives (C-in-C W.A.1649/19) to ESCAPADE and ENCOUNTER, who hunted without result.

1130 — U-boat reported 1 mile off Gurnard's Head steering N. (C-in-C W.A.1150/19 to ENCOUNTER, ESCAPADE).

1914 — D/F reports indicate U-boat shadowing convoy H.G.7, GALLANT, WALKER, VANOC, WOLVERINE, VERITY, Capt. D.12 to attack. Estimated posn. course, speed, 2000/19, 45°30'N 11°30'W013° 8 knots. French cruisers TARTU and VAUQUELIN are escorting convoy (ACWA.1914/19).

1500 — By D/F reliable fix of unknown enemy unit 54°12'N 6°30'E(DNI 1542/19).

1630 — Trawler ABERDEEN saw periscope in Bantry Bay. (IC 0275/39).

0200 — Norwegian NARSTENEN nearly collided with large S/M stationary on surface 54°59'N 1°11'W (IC. 0275/39).

19. 11. 1939,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

ECHO, Attack on S/M. — M. 015748/39, dated 29. 11. 1939, H.M.S. ECHO, Commander S. H. K. Spurgeon, R.A.N., Report of Proceedings, attack on Enemy S/M on 19.11.39.

War Diary.

19.11.39
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

After an interval of nearly 3 weeks U-boat activity in the Western Approaches has broken out again. Reported 2 U-boats passed Great Belt proceeding northward during 19/11, these may now be between Far. I. and Kona (DNI 1515/22) (N.A. Copenhagen 1245/22)

Ships attacked

PENSILVA	1220	S.S. PENSILVA (4258 tons) was attacked and sunk by U-boat. ECHO carried out attack 46° 51'N 11° 17'W at 1330 (C-in-C W.A. 0014/20 says 1350). Large quantities of oil and bubbles. I consider attack was successful. No casualties from PENSILVA. ECHO has all survivors (C-in-C W.A. 0014/20) Torpedoed without warning (ECHO 1415/19) Not in convoy. (Valentia 1146/19 gives position 46° 51'N 11° 26'W) C-in-C W.A. 1159/19 gives 46° 50'N 11° 26'W
ROTHESAY CASTLE Escaped	0713	S.S. ROTHESAY CASTLE (tons) was attacked by gunfire by U-boat 300 miles W.S.W. of Ushant. Escaped. ECHO and WANDERER told to hunt 47° 27'N 1° 39'W (C-in-C W.A. 0737/19) WOLVERINE and VERITY told to hunt (C-in-C W.A. 0748/19)
		SSSS 20 miles E. Sudero 61 35 6 West proceeding in Northerly direction (DERVISH T.O.R.2320/19)
DARINO sunk	1022/ 1200	S.S. DARINO (1351 tons) sunk by torpedo in position 44° 12'N 11° 7'W at 1022/1200 G.M.T. 19th November. Ship torpedoed without warning and sunk in six minutes. Survivors picked up by submarine. Very well treated on board and report submarine plenty of provisions. Captain stated he had been at sea since beginning of war and was shortly returning to Germany. Had lifebuoy of S.S. CRESWELL on board. Submarine marked M.129 and had crew of about 40. 4 torpedo tubes and a number of spare torpedoes. Submarine transferred survivors to S.S. CATERINA GEROLINICH in 38'N 8° 32'W at 1430 on 19th November. (Ramsgate 1800/22)
B.O. BORJESSON	0305	B.O. BORJESSON (1586 tons) Norwegian, 081° 8.6 miles Spurn lightship. Mined, 13 saved (several badly injured) by FRASCATI. 6 missing. (Humber Radio Th 1 0748/19). Sank 0530 (FO Humber1358/19
GRAZIA		GRAZIA (Italian 5857 tons) mined off Tongue lightship. 24 saved 2 missing. GRIFFIN landed 11 uninjured. (VA Dover 0920/20
KAUNAS		KAUNAS (Lithuanian) 1521 tons mined 3 miles off Belgian coast. 15 saved, 1 killed 1 injured
RHUYS		RHUYS (French 2921 tons) mined 3 miles S. of Humber Lt. V. 14 survivors landed Grimsby (FO Humber 1626/19) Sunk.
TORCH BEARER	0820	TORCHBEARER (1267 tons) Black Deeps Shipway Channels, mined, 8 saved, 5 injured, 4 missing GREYHOUND rescued survivors.

Mr. J. H. Casson, Chief Officer of DARINO gives time as 0400 and says C/m stated it had been following ship since 1500 18/11.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

As from sunset 19/11 the appointment F.O.C. 1st B.S. and Second in Command Mediterranean Fleet will lapse. S.E.O. is to remain in BARHAM for the present. (C.in C. Mar. 1923/16).

South Atlantic

WAMERU
ADOLF LEONHARDT

Reported raising steam at 0955/19 at Lobito. C2. (SNO Simonstown 1305/20). Escort requirements cannot be met. WELLINGTON to be directed to Freetown to escort our convoy (DOD(F)1613/19, C-in-C SA 1005/20).
Routeing of ships via Mozambique Channel continued (NOIC Simonstown 1728/19).

North Atlantic

U.S. Patrol

Galveston reports U.S. destroyers DAVIS, BENHAM, JOVETT, ELLET and LANG base there for neutral patrol. (SO(1) Kempton 1546/19).

GLUCKSBERG

German, probably sailed from Cadiz night 19/20 Nov. (SO Gib. 1909/21).

SATURNIA

Italian, with 60 German sailors on board left N.York 19/11, due Ponta Delgada 24/11, Lisbon 26/11. Instructions re boarding and removing Germans (Hd. of M. 1749/22).

East Indies

Instructions for M. Force

To seek out and destroy enemy armed ships which are reported in your area. Subsidiary objects to locate and take necessary action against enemy supply ships. Normally to operate North of 5° N. and East of 86; E. C. in C. China is placing oiler at disposal etc. (C. in C.E.I. 10793/ Z/19).

War Diary.

19.11.39

Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

EILBEK — Suspicious Belgian steamer reported anchored 0929 in KCSV 3858 a/c reports large number of cylindrical metal canisters on board. (C-in-C Nore 1009/19 to BOADICEA) See also C-in-C Nore 1031/19, AC HQ Chatham SCOTSTOUN in 58° 55'N 14° 13'W at 1430 escorting suspected German EILBEK (2185 tons) towards Clyde unable to board owing to weather. In view slow speed of advance and danger of U-boat attack request destroyer daylight 20/11 (VANP 1615/19) PUNJABI was sent. Captured 18/11 in 60°9'N, 19°38'W with name ISA painted on bows, Swedish flag on sides and wearing Swedish colours.

BORKUM — Captured by CALIFORNIA in Denmark Strait 18/11 expected to arrive Leith in charge of prize crew 24/11, expected Clyde 2/12(VANP 2019/21)

Positions of s/m's. — 0700/19 (Adty D.C. 2010/18) A. One in Zone C1. B. One in 29LZ, 4030 proceeding Rosyth. C. One in 29AA 4620 proceeding Zone C.D. One in 29ND 3000 proceeding Zone C. E. One in VLJN. F. One in YXLZ. G. One in HTLZ 2040.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

NEW YORK — Sailed 13/11 or 14/11 from Murmansk (FOCNP 1238/19).

AMERIKA MUANSA GOLDENFELS — Large German ship believed the AMERIKA with cargo passed Haugesund southward 1630, MUANSA left Haugesund northwards in ballast night 18/19 November. (D.NI 1839/39). Large German ship of Atkinson Line believed to be GOLDENFELS passed southward 1630 in cargo (V.C. Haugesund 1653/19)

WEATHER

0400 GMT

North Sea — North of 57°N, wind moderate S.S.W. Good visibility
South of 57°N, wind strong to gale from N.W.
Moderate visibility, much rain.

Channel — Wind W.N.W., strong to gale, moderate visibility.

Western Approaches — Wind N.W. strong to gale, good visiblity.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

Home Fleet is in Port A.
SOUTHAMPTON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, BELFAST, AURORA, CAIRO and 11 destroyers in Rosyth.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland3 " , 3 A.M.C.'s
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C.'s

Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal patrols special air reconnaissance is being carried out off the Norwegian coast between Oberstad and Kristiansand and anti-submarine patrols in the area Thames-Maas Lightship-Texel.

Enemy minefield

Closing of Humber

A new minefield has been found in the approaches to the Humber. Following the sinking of two ships in this area minesweepers swept up a German moored mine and the Humber has been closed to shipping pending a further search a.m. 20/11 (D.T.D. 0056/20). CURLEW did not sail but 4 S Class destroyers proceeded p.m. for normal patrol and convoy duty, being routed very close to the shore.

An explosion believed to be a mine occurred close to INGLEFIELD at 0010/20, 2 miles East of Rattray Head. Depth of water here is 30 fathoms and if explosion was due to mine it was probably of the moored type.

Casualties

ENCOUNTER minor damage to forecastle due to steaming into heavy seas.

Western Approaches

Disposition of forces at 1800 (C-in-C W.A. 1854/19)

Routing

All north bound ships in the Downs have received new routes (N.O. I/C Ramsgate 1831/19) of single ships from Thames (F.O. I/C London 1805/20)

Convoys

Difficulties experienced owing to inexperience of ships' masters (Adty D.T.D. 1454/20).
Procedure if escort for Scandinavian convoys is late (D.T.D. 1318/19). Further re. these convoys (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1340/20)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

1023 H.M.S. MASTIFF sunk by mine 093° Tongue Light Vessel one mile returning with survivors (Port M.S. officer Sheerness 1425/20). 5 ratings killed, 4 wounded.

MASTIFF mined.

SEA SWEEPER sunk.

1700 SEA SWEEPER trawler, sunk by S/M 30 m. N.N.W. Tory Island, no casualties, crew picked up by S.S. LOIS.

DELPHINE Sunk.

1600 DELPHINE, trawler, 250 tons, sunk by S/M 20 m. N. by E. Tory Island, no casualties crew landed Malinhead 1400/21.

INGLEFIELD missed by torpedo.

0015 H.M.S. INGLEFIELD ? missed by torpedo 57°35'N 1°40'W (off Rattray Head). Attack by echo on S/M probably successful (D.C.0833/20).

S/M's reported.

1700 30 miles N.N.W. Tory Island (D.N.I 0828/21).

0030 Enemy S/M 40°45'N 12°40'W. French report. (Culvercliff Radio 0054/20).

0137 -0315 D/F bearings indicate that two U-boats are operating within 100 miles of coast between C. Finisterre and C. St. Vincent. (D.N.I 0356/20).

1900 British steamer BENGUELA report U-boat 46° 17'N, 06°03'W. (C-in-C W.A. 1235/21). U-boats suspected patrolling Rattray Head area, believed to have fired torpedoes 57° 35'N, 1°40'W 0015/20. IMOGEN, IMPERIAL, IMPULSIVE, search and hunt. (Cdr.(D) Cdg, H.F.D.F.S. Force 1054/20) (cf, WIGMORE 18/11).

1322 By unreliable D/F fix enemy U-boat was 46° 40'N 6°0'W (D.N.I. 1455/20) Several D/F fixes place possibly disabled U-boat in above position from 1322 20/11 to 2215 20/11. EXMOUTH, ECHO join MONTROSE there at 0880 to hunt. French informed. Sunderland a/c co-operating (C-in-C W.A. 2340/20, 2107/20).

S/M's attacked.

1857 by SIROCCO (Fr. destroyer) 45°55'N 5°5'W. French cruisers L'INDOMPTABLE, LE MALIN, LE TRIOMPHANT with two flying boats will be searching. (C-in-C WA 2340/20,0438/21) S/M was attacked by gunfire on surface.

1431 A/S trawler MAN O'WAR reports attacked submerged S/M in 51°55'N,1°46'E position. Contact lost. GRIFFIN and GIPSY proceeding to position (FOIC Harwich 1431/20).

1730 PELICAN and HASTINGS carried out d/c attack on moving target 013° Cromer Light 6.6 miles. Stationary target in same position as attack. (C-in-C Rosyth 2247/20) KEITH, BOADICEA proceed to position (C-in-C Nore 1959/20) 1106/21 KEITH observed some curious splashes in the sea in this area but was unable to identify them. (A.S. Report 78).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic, Proposed Patrol. Proposal to send force of two cruisers and possibly destroyers into Adriatic to intercept German merchant ships believed to be trading between Yugo-Slavian and Italian ports and Trieste, and to exercise contraband control in that area. (c. in C., Med., 1943/20). Your 1943/20. Not considered desirable to adopt proposal. Reasons. Situation will be watched. (Head of M., 1734/27).

America and West Indies.

French Sqdn. French battleship LORRAINE and cruisers MARSEILLAISE and JEAN DE VIENNE to arrive Bermuda 26/11, Sunday, to fuel, then proceed Halifax and subsequently escort important French convoy to Mediterranean. (D.O.D. (F), 1921/20).

20.11.39.
Monday.

War Diary.

South Atlantic (Cont.)

Force H. Unless contact has been made with enemy ships by dark 20/11 search is to be abandoned and Force H. is to return to Simonstown or Cape Town, complete with fuel and await further instructions.(C. in C. S.A. 1141/20.)

Information class C O., German ships in South Atlantic expected to form a convoy under escort of pocket battleships and cruiser HIPPER. E.O., DEUTSCHLAND will be importing fuel and provisions 40 miles from Necochla from Argentine ship 22/11. C.4., DEUTSCHLAND or another German warship will be off Argentine coast south of Bahia Blanca between 10/12 and 20/12. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1935/20).

Mediterranean.

Seek concurrence of French authorities in following arrangements for use in event of decision to seize German exports (D.E.W.D. 1703/20 to N.L.O.Marceau):

(a) Shipping bound Westwards from ports in Italy and Greece for Spanish ports and Gibraltar and beyond to be dealt with by French Navy at Marseilles and Oran or other North African port. Ships which have not received a clearance from French authorities to be dealt with at Gibraltar.

(b) Shipping bound Eastwards from West Italy to Aegean to be dealt with by British Navy at Malta or Haifa.

(c) Shipping bound Eastwards from Adriatic and Aegean to Suez Canal and Egypt to be dealt with by British Navy at Malta, Haifa or Aden.

(d) Shipping lying between Italy and her colonies will not be detained for examination unless special grounds for so doing.

ITAKA — See Enemy Intelligence, Home Commands.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Re transfer of ships to Japanese flag (S.O.(1) Shanghai 06292/20).

20.11.39.
Monday.

War Diary.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE (Cont.)

S/Ms. building. Stated Germany building fast S/Ms, ~~+~~ smaller than 250 tons and very fast M.T.Bs. (N.A.Norway 1010/20)

TRITON	Arrived (Oslo 1446/20)
TREUENFELS	Left during night loaded with ore (Narvik 1026/21)
AACHEN	Arrived Narvik (D.N.I. 1303/21)
ITAKA	Arrived Constanza 20/11 for coal bunkers. Departure 23/11 for unknown destination rumoured to be Russian port (Constanza 1132/24).

WEATHER.

05.00

	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	N.W. Moderate.	Good. Mainly fair.
Horns Reef.	N.W. Moderate.	Good. Occasional Showers.
Channel.	N.W. Light to Moderate.	Moderate to good, mainly fair.
W.Approaches.	W. Light.	Good. Fair.

Outlook. Similar, with coastal haze early, clearing later.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Freetown Defence. Proposals of C. in C. S.A. for protection of Freetown against minelaying S/Ms. Two powerful tugs also required to assist ships (C. in C. S.A. 1750/20.)

WINDHUK. Portuguese authorities ordered camouflage painted out and usual Woermann colour substituted (S.O.(1) Freetown 1408/20).

Shipments to Germany. Arrangements have been made for shipment of timber to Germany from Sao Francisco do Sul in Italian ship (S.O.(1) Freetown 1324/20).

20.11.39.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

BERTHA FISSER — Scuttled herself 64° 10' N. 15° 14' W. Expected Clyde 38/21. (V.A.N.P. 2019/21). Intercepted by CHITRAL. 32 survivors picked up. Was closed and examined 1500/10/11 but not boarded by British cruiser in 42°N 35°W. On 20/11 she had ADA of Bergen on stem and Norwegian flag on sides, clearly painted in at sea. There is no ADA of Bergen (VANP1183/1).

RHEINGOLD — German prize RHEINGOLD (5055 tons) arrived Greenock 2080 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2200/20).

Positions of French Ships. — At 1200/20 (D.C. 0443/20). L'ADROIT with convoy 30 miles West of Oporto. BOUCLIER, LA MELPOMENE 110 miles W.W. Finisterre. One A.M.C. in PZHG on patrol. TARTU, VAUQUELIN with convoy H.G.7 CYCLONE 40 miles N.Cape Ortegal with convoy course S.W. CHACAL MISTRAL with convoy OG.7. Sloops on patrol, one off Dieppe, two off Vigo. (Aux. Cruiser BARFLEUR N.Q.A. W. course 23° speed 15 knots. (A.C.W.A. 1327/20).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

TUEBINGEN — Enemy ship, believed to be TUEBINGEN passed northward 1320 in ballast (V.C. Haugesund 1340/20)

M/S or M/L off Skaw. — Information from Skaw that two German vessels either minesweepers or minelayers are operating off Skaw. (N.A. Copenhagen 2315/20).

WESTERWALD. — 12,000 ton German tanker using name WESTWALD to be armed with four 7-inch and A/A guns (D.N.I. 2043/20) (D.N.I. 1002/21) Arrested by Norwegians 17/11. Release ordered against local naval opinion. Authorities were refused permission to inspect between decks (Trondheim 1600/20)

Floating Mines. — Frequent reports of floating mines off Dutch coasts.

A/Cs. — Very large number of enemy a/cs. active over Heligoland Bight. Courses N. and W. (D.N.I.1812/20)

12,000 ton German tanker deeply loaded left Hestvik Hittersen, daylight 19/11. Norwegian British Consul secretly states ship had concealed armaments and was allowed to proceed south in territorial waters and that Norwegian press was forbidden to publish any information (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem 1230/20).

Observers on shore state over 100 vessels of 3000 to 8000 tons apparently laden passed from Baltic to Kiel during 24 hours commencing 18/11 (N.A. Copenhagen 1915/20).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

BERTA FISSER. Scuttled.	Scuttled herself when intercepted by CHITRAL 64°10'N, 15°14'W, 20/11 (D.N.I. 1349/27) 32 survivors were picked up. She reported she had been closed and examined at 1500/10 /11 but not boarded, by a British cruiser in 42°N,35°W. When intercepted on 20/11 she had ADA of Bergen painted on stern and Norwegian flag on sides, obviously painted at sea. There is no ADA of Bergen (V.A., N.P., 1123/40). (M. 01211/40 H.M.S. CHITRAL forwarding extinct from L. of P. M.016563/39, abuse of Norwegian Flag by German S.S. BERTHER FISSES).
RHEINGOLD Prize.	German prize RHEINGOLD (5055 tons) arrived Greenock 2080 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2200/20).

War Diary.

20.11.1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Kirkwall Defences.

Inadequate against magnetic mines, and where should detained merchant ships be sent if Kirkwall is closed by mines? (A.C.O.S., 1815/19, 1625/20).

Four A/S trawlers to be sent as soon as completed working up at Portland. No possibility of loops and controlled minefields being laid at Kirkwall in near future, but requirement is on the list. If Kirkwall closed, Cromarty should be used. (D. A/S. W., 0144/21).

20.11.39.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Mines Laid by Enemy a/cs.

Mines were laid by aircraft after dark 20/11 and 21/11 off Humber, Haisborough, Harwich, Southend and Downs.
Enemy a/cs. have been observed after dark to drop mines lowered by parachute from 1000 ft. or less in Humber, Wouldm, off Harwich and Southend. Each a/c appears to drop one mine. Mines are magnetic (D.M.S.0303/22) (Adty. D.C. 2027/21).

Balloon Barrage.

Arrangements to be made for balloon barrage in estuaries at Harwich, Humber and Tyne to destroy enemy a/cs. flying low to lay mines. (Air. Min. 1155/22. H.Q. F.C. 1730/22).

Mine exploded on surface close to ship 0015 in 57° 35' 20" N. 1° 41'W (Capt.D(5) 0047/20)

Master of Dutch tanker stated 30/10 he had actually seen German a/cs. laying mines in North Sea. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1602/20).

Emergency Channel.

Emergency channel North of Tongue Light Vessel will shortly be promulgated. To be thoroughly attacked by d/cs. (D.M.S. 2151/21.)
Measures to be taken to counter menace of mines dropped by a/cs. (D.M.S. 1322/22, 1338/22)
German magnetic mine with parachute attached located on mud flats off Shoeburyness. Adty. experts investigating. (D.C. 0827/23).
Nine moored mines were swept up South of Humber Light Vessel. The port was closed to merchant shipping until 1500/21.

Humber Closed.

The Humber is closed (D.T.D. 0056/20).

Casualties. MASTIFF.

Trawler MASTIFF sunk by mine 1023/20 93° Tongue Light Vessel one mile. Margate lifeboat landed 4 injured men. Other survivors returning to harbour in CAPE SPARTEL (C. in C. Nore 1450/20) Five ratings missing.

Suspicious tanker.

Suspicious oil tanker about 5000 tons seen recently. Last occasion 1300/20/11 approx. 49° 16'N. 2° 38' W. (B & C. Havre, 1630/22) See also C.in C. Rosyth 1656/22.

BORKUM.

Expected Clyde 2/12 (V.A.N.P. 2019/21) In view of her stores indicating she would be used as supply ship, N.A. Buenos Aires asked Adty. (1650/22) whether her cargo was intact when captured (18/11)

20.11.39.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. Fleet will sail from Port A. so as to arrive at the Clyde 1000/21.
GLASGOW and 2 destroyers sailed from Rosyth at 0530 to intercept BREMEN, reported to be on passage from Murmansk to Germany (See below).

Boom Patrol. Orkneys and Shetlands. Re sailing of seine net fishing boats for boom patrol in Orkneys and Shetlands. (F.O. Clyde 2050/20).

Northern Patrol. KASHMIR sailed 1240 to intercept S.S. MAAS, possibly disguised enemy vessel reported 61° 57' N. 4° 55'W. course 115° , speed 10 knots 0940 20/11 (ACOS. 1329/20)

(ADA) BERTHA FISSER. Lloyds' agent, Reykjavik, reports Norwegian ship ADA destroyed by fire after bombardment by unknown man-of-war 20/11. Wreck drove ashore near Hornefjord 64° 16' N. 15° W. **Note.** This was the BERTHA FISSER (see below)? Has she previously masqueraded as ADA, and under that name was closed and examined but not boarded by a British cruiser at 1500/10/11 in 42°N 35°W (VANP 1123/11). There is no ADA of Bergen.

Danish Minefields. Commencing 21/11 Danish Navy will completely block with mines the extreme southern entrances to Great and Little Belts. Narrow pilot passages will be left. (N.A. Copenhagen 1815/20). See 29/11.

Dispositions to intercept BREMEN. GLASGOW, MAORI, ZULU intercept off Norwegian coast if proceeding to Germany. Air reconnaissance.
If nothing sighted GLASGOW and destroyers return to Rosyth dark 22/11 (R.A. 2 C.S. 0004) No information that she is armed (D.S.O. 1009/20). Likely places for her to pass outside territorial waters are Folda 64° 40' N. and Hustadvik 63° N. (C.in C. H.F. 0949/20)

Approaches to Liverpool. Best method of securing mine-free approach to Liverpool with force at disposal (A.C.W.A. 2037/20).

Air Activity. 1224. 1 enemy A/C, position 194, course 020° dropped bomb near BOADICEA - carrying out S/M sweep (KEITH 1224/20) No damage. Battle flight sent out failed to make contact with enemy.

At 1200 one enemy A/C over Scapa Flow; last seen 1220 steering S.E. at 20,000 ft.
At 1812 there were indications of considerable number of enemy a/cs. over Heligoland Bight, proceeding N. and W. At 1915 approximately 30 a/cs were operating between the Naze and Deal. By 2040 all had returned. The possibility that these a/cs might have been minelaying has been considered.

War Diary — U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

SULBY sunk

0800 Fleetwood Trawler SULBY sunk by gunfire by U-boat 35 miles N.W. Inistrahull; 7 survivors landed Tobermory 2230/22, Captain and 4 others in another boat believed lost. C. in C. Rosyth 0414/23). (N.O.i/c Belfast 1355/22).

0835 Ship 70 miles N.W. Rathlin gunned SSSS de Unknown (s/m report 0835/21). (N.O. i/c Belfast 0955/21 says 0838. (Probably this refers to THOMAS HANKINS).

0849 Intercept from Malin Head Radio SSSS unknown trawler being attacked by s/m 40 miles N.W. by N. Instrahull (Port Patrick Radio).

1120 Submarine attacking trawler 70 N.W. Rathlin (Port Patrick Radio 1126/21).

(? DOROTHY LAMBERT)
? THOMAS HANKINS.

Another trawler believed to be DOROTHY LAMBERT attacked and sunk by same U-boat about same time (C. in C. Rosyth 0414/23). ? THOMAS HANKINS which was sunk 21/11, crew saved.

Between 1430/20 and 0919/21 it is believed 6 or 7 trawlers were sunk off North Ireland (D.C.N.S. daily report). These include on 20/11 SEA SWEEPER, DELPHINE, and 21/11 SULBY, THOMAS HANKINS. No others known.
Heavy losses of Fleetwood trawlers.
Pressure on Govt. to provide better protection (Press).

North Atlantic.

HOUSATONIC 1155 30° 11' N. 19° 23' W. SSSS HOUSATONIC s/m firing (? 1210) Escaped. (The s/m was probably French).

War Diary

21. 11. 39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/m's. reported.

1056 1 mile 180° Rame Head, contact by A/S Trawler (C. in C., W.A. 1056/21). ESCORT and ELECTRA hunted.

2300 D.F. indicates U-boat still operating N.W. of Cape Finisterre (D.N.I. 0032/22).

0200 S/m. reported 1 mile south of Cross Sands. SKIPJACK and LEDA ordered to sweep vicinity (C. in C. Nore, 1104/21).

0930 70 miles N.W. Rathlin Island. PUNJABI ordered to join Capt. (D)6 to hunt. (Capt. (D)6 0930/21).

1651 Unconfirmed report U-boats seen off N.E. and S.E. coasts Iceland on 20/11 and 21/11 (D.N.I. 2301/22). Enemy s/m. 45° 40' N. 4° 50' W. (Brest 1651/22).

? time U-Boats reported 53° 49' N. 3° 51' W. (Liverpool Bay) (I/C. 0275/39).

1040 Master of CLAUDIUS MAGNIN (French) reports submarine periscope seen disappearing slowly in 51° 32' N. 4° 01' W. (F.O. I/C Cardiff 1247/22).

about 1500 French escort ship attacked s/m 44° 51'N, 4°6'W approx. confident of success.

S/m's. attacked

By aircraft 612 Sqdn. position Q5 S.E. 4445 1451/hours. 2 bombs dropped from aircraft 1415/21) IMOGEN, IMPERIAL and IMPULSIVE ordered to search and hunt. (C. in C. Rosyth 1504/21).
By BEDFORDSHIRE, 3 miles N. of Bull Point at (?) 1930 - report doubtful. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 2200/21).

1030 BEDFORDSHIRE, WARWICK DEEPING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE attacked s/m about 1030 3 miles from Bull Pt. S/m. seen to turn over. (N.O.i/c. Cardiff 1920/21).
WARWICK join GUILLEMOT hunting s/m 53° 49' N. 3° 51' W. (N.O.i/c Liverpool 0426/21).
BEDOUIN and part of 4th D.F. searching off Fiora (Firth of Forth) (A.S. Report 78).

Ships attacked

TERUKUNI MARU sunk.

TERUKUNI MARU, Japanese liner, 11930 tons, mined off Sunk Lt. V. 129° Landguard Point 10 miles (C. in C. Nore 1332/21)

1230 178 Japanese and 23 (? 25) passengers saved, 3 injured.

FIANONA damaged.

2240 SS. FIANONA, Italian 6660 tons, mined off South Brake buoy, ½ mile, little cargo, remained afloat. Crew safe, ship arrived Downs Road. To sail for Rotterdam 2300/22. (Northforeland Radio 0010/22).
Taken to Calais and dry docked.

GERALDUS sunk

1848 SS. GERALDUS, British 2495 tons, Captain G. Smith, mined 2 m. W.S.W. of Shipwash. All crew rescued by WIVERN. Not in convoy.

FOREIGN STATIONS (CONTD.)

(China)

Cruiser Patrol — capture enemy merchant ships if met outside territorial waters and watch and report if inside. Present cruiser patrol between Thaton and Tjilatjap including air search of Mentawei Is. will continue. (C. in C. China 0742/21).

New Zealand.

Re. presumed enemy W/T signals heard. S.O.(I) Wellington 1048/21, N.O.i/c Simonstown 1712/21).

South Atlantic.

ADOLPH WOERMANN — WAIMARAMA (Br.) reports sighting ADOLPH WOERMANN 0842 GMT 12° 24' S. 3° 31' W., keeping in touch (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1407/21) 1200 GMT 11° 18' S. 3° 24' W. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1357/21). Longitude should apparently read 4° 44' W. according to my plotting. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 0912/22) "steering 10° 11° 34' S., 3° 26' W. will follow" (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1442/21). Rumours of meeting of pocket battleships in South Atlantic (N.A. Buenos Aires 1515/21).

Force K. — Re. Simonstown 1407/21 (see above) use Force K. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C.S.A. 1656/21).

WINDHUK — Reported she will meet another ship 22/11 in 6° 4' E. 22° 11' S. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1515/21).

S. Africa Defence — No other course open except to accept arrangements for Seaward Defence Force. Various arrangements (Hd. of M. 1802/21 See 2/11. To commence to function about 1/1/40. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 0951/23). See also N.O.i/c Simonstown 1604/23.

S/m. reported. — Unconfirmed report of sighting of German s/m San Francisco Bay, Brazilian destroyer SANTA CATHERINA investigating (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1656/22). False report (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1041/29)

Force G. and AJAX — Appearance of German heavy ships off Argentine coast unlikely before end of November. Intend to keep Force G. and AJAX in Falkland Is. - Rio de la Plata area for present. 8/12 is anniversary of Falkland Is. Battle, possible German attempt at revenge. ACHILLES to stay in Rio de Janeiro area; arrangements with Brazilian authorities for fuelling. (Cdr. Cmdg. S.A. Divn. 1530/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ADMIRAL SCHEER DEUTSCHLAND	Report, no means of judging reliability, ADMIRAL SCHEER due Mogadishu 18/11 for provisions and fuel, then to raid British shipping in Gulf and return to Frava after 8 days. DEUTSCHLAND sailing for Pacific. (C. in C. E.I. 0529Z/21).
DORTMUND	Reported preparing to sail from Lourenco Marques (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1649/21).
RUFIDJI	At Beira has been buying up all available dry batteries, 3rd Officer is W/T expert. (C. in C. E.I. 0304 Z/21).
RHEINLAND.	In Padang, trying to discharge (C. in C. E.I. 0304 Z/21).

Mediterranean.

French ships	1300 BORDELAIS (destr.) escorting s/ms. DIANE, LA PSYCHE, MEDUSE, LE GLORIEUX passed West to East S.O.(I) Gib. 1302/21).

America & W. Indies.

COLUMBUS	German S.S. COLUMBUS reported expected to sail from Vera Cruz 1/12 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1247/20).
REPULSE	Repairs completed (FURIOUS 0900/21).
GUNAR	"64° 25' N. 25° 40' W. we are sinking chased by man of war" 0920 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0701/21).
HAVELLAND	At Manzanillo loaded 1500 tons Diesel endeavouring secure more (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1405/21).
	Explosion wrecked Standard Oil Tanker MOWINCKEL, Bayonne, New Jersey. Sabotage suspected. Other cases reported in tankers formerly manned German seamen (Cable intercept).

North Atlantic.

COLON	S.S. COLON reports fired on by s/m 1155 21/11 30° 11' N. 19° 24' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1400/21) ? French.

China

S/m. patrols	Rumours U.S.S.R. to place Vladivostock at disposal of German raiders and to place s/m's. at Germany's disposal. (N.I.D. 0046/21). Possible not probable (S.O.(I) Hongkong 0347/22). S/m. patrol off Sabang is to be withdrawn. Instead one s/m to be continually on patrol searching anchorages in Mentawei Is. between Simajouy and Pagi on West coast of Sumatra, to locate and destroy enemy armed raiders and

capture/

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Battleships Withdrawn, Australian Convoys.

My 1814/10. Request you will sail BARHAM to relieve MALAYA as soon as convenient. Regretted it will be necessary to leave you for some weeks without a capital ship in which to hoist your flag as RAMILLIES will probably be required to escort Australian troop convoys. (D.O.D.(F), 2012, 2015/21).

War Diary.

21.11.39.
Tuesday.

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.	
North Sea.	Northerly,Light.	Poor, rain.	Outlook improving.
Horns Reef.	Northerly,Light.	Fair, cloudy.	Outlook improving.
Channel.	Variable, Light.	Poor, coastal.	Visibility improvin.
W.Approaches.	Variable, Light.	Good, mist, cloudy.	Outlook showers.

Outlook Visibility improving.

War Diary.

21.11.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

A.M.C. in Baltic.	Confirmation that Germany is using armed merchant vessel in Baltic. 6 armed trawlers also observed in Ovo Sound 4/11, 16/11 (V.C. Christiansand T.H.1 145/21) See Nov.15.
Suspicious vessel.	Master of ST. WOOLSEY reports seeing 0200 dark hull of craft one mile south of Cross Sand travelling East past, no lights, no marks, low lying (C-in-C Nore 0620/21). BLYSKAVICA investigating suspicious vessel reported by W/T S.W. from Ship wash (S.N.O. Harwich 2210/31, BLYSKAVICA 2250/21).
COLONAL ROLAND	Suspected of being a supply ship (Oslo 1500/21).
Air Patrols. Hamburg-Scapa.	German Air Patrol is apparently on a line Hamburg-Scapa. Planes flying N.W. are frequently met always a.m. and near 57°30'N 3°E (Oslo 1500/21).
Falsterbo.	Norwegian Captain states German air patrol regularly inside Swedish territorial waters Falsterbo northwards (Christiansands 1705/21).
BREMEN.	Large vessel supposed to be BREMEN crossed from West to East south of Telibong Fjord 17/11. Further on her disguise (C-in-C Rosyth 1803/21). Deeply laden trawlers passing last few days northwards up West coast of Norway destination unknown (Oslo 1500/21). Probably armed; perhaps they are at Murmansk. (N.A. Moscow 2243/21).
NEW YORK BREMEN ST. LOUIS.	NEW YORK reported left Murmansk early Nov. pilotage extremely difficult but cannot be repeated with BREMEN. Understood ST. LOUIS still at Murmansk. (N.A. Moscow 2243/21).
WESTERWALD	Deeply laden and heavily armed reported steaming south 18 knots of Haroy Fjord 1200/19. (F.O.C. N.P. 1500/21).
Mines.	Moored mines reported near North short Ribachi Peninsula.
LATONA.	LATONA sailed (Oslo 1626/21).
OLBERS	OLBERS arrived " " " (1236 tons).
URANUS	URANUS " " " "
S/M following convoy.	Stated German S/M entered Fejo Osun and followed ship of HN 2 sailing for rendezvous inside territorial waters 14/11 (N.C.S.O.Bergen 1450/21) (Passed to C-in-C C.H.F. and Rosyth D.N.I. 2005/24).
TENERIFE ADRIAN	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Gothemberg 1408/21).

War Diary.

21. 11. 39,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Wreck of MASTIFF, (see 20/11).

Diving operations to be carried out close to wreck of MASTIFF with object of obtaining any parts of mine and sinker which destroyed her. Steel ships should not be used in dangerous area. (D.O.D.(H), 1947/21).

Home Commands (Contd.).

Convoys.

ON 3 delayed 24 hours owing to destroyers employed hunting S/M's off Kinnaird Hd. HN.3 will in consequence be delayed 24 hours. (C-in-C Rosyth 1214/21. (C-in-C Rosyth 2155/21) ON.3 again postponed (D.T.D. 1200/22). It is noticed that escorts from Tyne to Methil and vice versa are to be done entirely by trawlers. These convoys frequently contain Admiralty oilers, fleet auxiliaries, store carriers, S/M's, being valuable ships for which trawler escort unsatisfactory (C-in-C Rosyth 1830/21).

Mining of Belts.

Danish Ministry of Marines announces Danish Navy will completely block with mines extreme southern entrances to Great and Little Belts. Narrow passages will be left. (N.A. Copenhagen 1815/20).

GUNNAR.

Distress signal 0920/21 GMT from GUNAR (? Swedish GUNNAR, 1297 tons) 65°25'N 25°40'N sinking, chased by man of war (D.N.I.1650/21).

Air Activity.

a.m. Reconnaissance by 2 or 3 enemy a/c's over Orkneys. Two groups, 3 and 7 a/c's respectively over Shetlands. 9 a/c's attacked, 6 at Sullum Voe, 3 at Lerwick. One R.A.F. flying boat destroyed at Lerwick, all crew saved, 1 man wounded. No damage at Sullum Voe. Skuas from Wick were sent to intercept. (F.O.C. Orkneys and Shetlands 1250/22).
At 1920 JAGUAR was bombed but not damaged by an enemy seaplane off the Humber. (C.F. SS MANGALORE sunk, 24/11).

Minelaying.

A/c's dropped mines on parachutes in following areas:
(1) In the Would
(2) In the entrance to Harwich harbour.
(3) Off Southend .
(4) Off Grimsby and in the entrance to Humber.
(5) In the Downs.

Harwich, Humber and the entrances to the Thames were closed to shipping.
One enemy a/c was destroyed. At 1130 BOREAS reported that following a large explosion wreckage of a German aeroplane was seen in position midway between Dover and Calais.

C.C. Base Falmouth.

Orders given for a Contraband Control Base to be established at Falmouth (D.E.W.D 2238/21) Staff required (C-in-C W.A.1031/26).

German Exports to be seized.

Announcement by Government that order in Council would be issued under which German exports in neutral ships would be subject to seizure as reprisal for indiscriminate strewing of mines by Germany. No steps to enforce control to be taken until Admiralty issue orders (D.E.W.) 2339/22)

HOME COMMANDS.

Closing of East Coast Ports after dark.

Foreign ships are warned not to approach ports on East coast between 51°20'N and 54°N during dark hours (1st S.L.2354/21) No ships whether in convoy or sailing independently are to be underway between 51°20'N and 52°7'N and 1°12'E and 2°5'E during dark hours (DEWD 2327/21).

Routeing of ships.

Amend Adty. 2055/6/10 to read vessels for all West Coast ports of U.K. are to proceed North about to destination. Vessels for South coast ports and East coast ports south of Firth of Forth to proceed to Methil for orders (DTD. 0048/21).

Minefield.

Scheveninger Radio reports in Dutch and English a mined area enclosed by (1) 51°39'N 1°35'E (2) 51° 31'N 1°21.1'E (3) 51°31'N 1°35'E. Wrecks dangerous to navigation 4 miles 115° from sunk Lt. V. Mines reported near wreck, instructions for incoming traffic for Thames. (Consul Copenhagen 0955/21) This was also intercepted 1645/19 (North Foreland Radio 1730/19). Area and instructions were both inaccurate and all British vessels were warned to disregard these probably inspired reports. N.A. Washington to ask Navy Department whether they can give any information to help to counter German

Magnetic mines.

magnetic mines (NID.0050/21) only suggestion sweeping with electric wire (NA. Washington THI 1323/31). Various other signals and telegrams were sent at subsequent dates to recipients who might be able to give information regarding magnetic mines.

Alarm Signals.

Alarm signals at ports at home to indicate surface vessels or S/M's in sight. (C-in-C H.F.1218/21).

Patrols.

Re. patrols in convoy route (NCSO Mercy 1620/21). See Approaches to Liverpool 20/11.
GIPSY picked up 2 German officers and one rating airman from rubber boat. Belonged to Heinkel shot down by British fighters 1400/20 over Thames Estuary. (Capt. D(22)1601/21).

TENERIFE.

TENERIFE, 4996 tons, scuttled herself 21/11 when intercepted by TRANSYLVANIA west of Iceland. Expected Clyde 28/11 (VANP 2019/21) (Left Vigo 9/11) 45 survivors picked up.

EILBEK

German prize EILBEK (2185 tons) arrived 21/11 (NCSO Clyde 1215/21) See 19/11.

War Diary. 21.11.1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

add Belfast, damaged. BELFAST struck by mine or torpedoes. My position 300° Fidra 5. (C.S.2, 1054/21). Ship appears riding comfortably on even keel and not very deep in water, proceeding slowly towards harbour. (C.S.2, 1120/21). IMOGEN ordered to return to Forth with IMPULSIVE and IMPERIAL with despatch. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1123/21). ISIS ordered proceed with all despatch to assistance of BELFAST (C. in C., Rosyth, 1115/21). A boiler and engine room out of action, probable that steam can be raised, explosion was abreast boiler room. (BELFAST, 1116/21). Searched position and all available destroyers and escort ships are being sent (C. in C., Rosyth, to C. in C., H.F., 1122/21). Tug is towing, further assistance urgently required, ship cannot steam or steer. Casualties, no dead, 16 injured (D.4, 1201/21). Salvage tug BULGER proceeding with 6-in. and 4-in. pumps in drifter. (A.S., Rosyth, 1217/21). BELFAST does not know whether mine or torpedo. Speed of tow, 3½ knots. (D.4, 1229/21).

As soon as BELFAST is through gate, VIVIEN to remain in company with her. Remaining escort vessels and destroyers to act under orders of Capt. (D) 4 and thorough search made f or suspected submarine. Area within 1 mile of position 5 miles 307° Fidra is to be avoided. A/S trawlers not patrolling gate to patrol loop to prevent escape from Firth. (list of ships available). (c. in C., Rosyth, 1418/21).

x Warning not to make any mention of accident either in conversation ashore or in correspondence. (F.O.C. 2 C.S., 1242/22).

War Diary. 21.11.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

C-in-C Home Fleet with NELSON, RODNEY and 6 destroyers arrived Clyde 1000. Mine sweeping of the entrance was completedat 0600/20. No mines found. A further sweep a.m. 21/11 cut one mine. The port was closed for the moment and a further sweep carried out. No further mines were found by second sweep, so port was opened.

Clyde closed.

GLASGOW, MAORI, ZULU off Norwegian coast each aiming to intercept BREMEN. They are being aided by extensive air reconnaissance.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes 2 cruisers.
Faroes to Iceland 3 " , one AMC.
Denmark Strait 1 " , 3 "

Air Reconnaissance.

In addition to normal patrols the following are being carried out:
(1) Air reconnaissance for S.S. BREMEN on Norwegian coast.
(2) Air reconnaissance Dutch coast.
(3) A/S patrol off Rattray Head, to assist destroyers in hunting S/M.
(4) A/S patrol in path of Fleet. 4 fighter squadrons are available and 4 in reserve.
(5) A combined offensive operation (BT2) by aircraft and destroyers against S/M's will take place in the southern part of the North Sea between 1300 and 1600.

B.T.2.

Orders for JAGUAR and JANUS to carry out B.T.2. (D.7,0016/21).

Force W.

Sailing postponed 24 hours (C-in-C H.F.1617/21).

Casualties BELFAST. 1054 damaged.

BELFAST was damaged by a mine or torpedo near May Island in Firth of Forth. Docked at Rosyth. (D.C.2025/22 (C-in-C Rosyth 2148/21) Casualties 20 wounded (DNI 1301/25) 300°Fidra 5 miles. (C-in-C Rosyth 1122/21) Cannot steam or steer (D.4 1201/21).

GIPSY 2230 sunk.

GIPSY while leaving Harwich harbour was sunk by a mine laid by aircraft. Her back was broken and she was beached. She left harbour wrong side of channel to that ordered (C-in-C Nov. 0017/22).

CALIFORNIA on Northern Patrol has slightly damaged her bows due to ice, and may require docking on next visit to port. AURORA has leaking rivets in wake of propeller, ship is still seaworthy but will require 48 hours' docking to make good defect. DUNLUCE CASTLE arrived at Humber as depot ship is leaking badly. Salvage pumps keeping the water under. Being docked 28/11.

War Diary.

22.11.39
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

Reported.

Another U-boat may reach Western Approaches from the North on 22/11 (D.N.I. 1038/20)

0930 — P.C.74 SHELDRAKE and A/S Trawlers searching for s/m off N. Ireland (N.O. i/c Belfast 0930/22)(SHELDRAKE 0930/22 re flares 2330/21 and 0130/22 in 56° 39' N. 7° 31' W.

1040 — Needles reports periscope of submarine reported sighted 165° 4 miles from Needles. Aircraft ordered to investigate and attack position V.D.S.E. 3727 (Chatham 1135/22)

0410 — Peterhead reports very long craft moving southwards at 16 knots from Needles. Rattray Head Lighthouse burning dull green light at 0255, thinks submarine (C. in C. Rosyth 5410/22)

MASHONA in position 155 2 D.F. 20 miles obtained D/F leaving probably U-boat, Searched, no result, (Capt. (D) 60932/22)

1528 — By D/F unknown enemy unit 020° from Scarborough north of 63° N. (D.N.I. 1612/22)

1625 — U-boat 45° 40' N. 4° 50' W. (D.N.I. 2101/22)

S/M's attacked.

H.M.S. MONTROSE, 3 attacks on good contact between 0300 and 0700 in position 048° 46' N. 06° 35' W. Light oil visible on surface. (MONTROSE 0930/22)

2115 — Motor A/S Boat guarding boom reported attacking submarine contact about 9 cables inside boom in Firth of Clyde. No confirmation obtained. Consider he was mistaken. (C. in C. H.F. 1424/23) (This was P.39 she made three attacks on suspected s/m off Clock Point) 1st M/S Flotilla has located an obstruction 341° 8.3 cables from Clock point which is near position given by motor A/S vessel. Depth of water between 40 and 50 fathoms. No diver available here or Rosyth for possible investigation. (F.O. i/c Clyde 1200/24) Last report showed s/m trying to get out. Close the nearer boom. (C. in C. H.F. 0104/23) to KINGFISHER.

War Diary. 22.11.39

Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

Ships Attacked.

Norwegian tanker SPINANGER picked up 7 survivors of ARLINGTON COURT after 6 days in an open boat.

ELENAR 2300 **sunk.**

ELENAR (4576 tons) damaged by explosion approx. 150° Shambles Lt. V. 1¾ miles Abandoned. Appeared to be sinking. Crew 24 reached Shambles Lt. V. now landed Weymouth. No serious casualties. 2 A/S trawlers searched for s/m, no success. Tugs searched for wreck; believed sunk (F.O. i/c Portland 0335/23) Wreck located 4.3. miles 107°, Portland Bill Lt. (F.O. i/c Portland 1526/23) sunk.

LOWLAND 1659 **Sunk.**

S.S. LOWLAND (914 tons) collier sunk by mine 2 miles E.N.E. of North East Gun Fleet. Crew 14, master killed, 11 missing (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2235/22) MYRTLE picked up 3 survivors one requiring medical attention. Position of sinking 072° 4 miles N. E. Gun fleet buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1930/22)

ARAGONITE 1540 **sunk.**

H.M.Trawler ARAGONITE mined off South Brake Buoy sank in shore off Deal 049° Deal coastguard station 1 mile. North and South traffic through Downs stopped. (C. in C. Nore 1700/22) Four ratings injured. (Admiralty Communique) salvage appears possible. (V.A. Dover 1844/26)

ARIJON **sunk.**

S.S. ARIJON (French 4374 tons) in convoy was sunk by torpedo 45° 40' N. 4° 50' W. (Position is near SCIROCCO's attack of 20/11)

War Diary.

22.11.39
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Reported that during period of German s/m activity a s/m had engine repairs carried out privately at Cadiz and provisions supplied. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1144/22)

French Convoys. See Home Commands.

SEVILLA — German reported, 102, left Huelva 2200/21 (S.O.(I) Gib. 1643/21)

ARAUCA — H.M.S. HOTSPUR sailed forthwith to intercept German ships ARAUCA reported by B.B.C. to have left Vera Cruz. (H.M.S. ORION, 1726/22)

Mediterranean.

Embargo. — In view of Government announcement of attacks on exports it appears it will be necessary to intercept south bound ships outside territorial waters off Port Said and to direct them to Haifa, observing that there is not a contraband control base south of Suez within reasonable distance. (C. in C. Med 1839/22)

America and West Indies.

British ships overdue.

Name.	Tonnage.	Cleared.	On.	Due.	On.
NEWTON BEECH	4651	Table Bay	27/9	Freetown	13/10
ASHLEA+	4222	Durban	28/9	Freetown	13/10
HUNTSMAN	8196	Durban	30/9	Freetown	17/10
TREVANION	5299	Table Bay	17/9	Freetown	1/11

22.11.39
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

ANTIOCHIA Scuttled. Captured by LAURENTIC 52° 12' N. 15° 8' W. 33 prisoners LAURENTIC 0300/23. You are not to tow her. (V.A.N.P. 0617/23) Have had to sink her (LAURENTIC 0814/23) She opened her sea-cocks.

Dutch ships not to sail. Dutch Government advise ships not to sail from Dutch ports until position regarding British two-way Blockade is clarified. (Press)

WEATHER.

0400 GMT.

North Sea. Wind S.S.W. gale in Northern half, light variable in southern half.
Visibility. Good in Northern half, moderate in southern half. Weather cloudy.

Channel. Wind height variable.
Visibility good.
Weather fine.

Western Approaches. Wind Fresh, southerly.
Visibility good.
Weather Cloudy.

Horns Reef. Wind, light westerly.
Visibility good.
Weather cloudy.
Outlook: Southerly gale moderating and wind vering West in North, otherwise similar.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force K.

South Atlantic.
If ADOLF WOERMANN is intercepted endeavour to ascertain movements, and whereabouts of WINDHUK (D.N.I. 1140/22)

ADOLF WOERMANN Scuttled. Scuttled herself 0830 approx. 10° 39' S. 5° 44' W. to avoid capture by NEPTUNE. Passengers and crew brought to Freetown (C. in C. S.A. 1642/22) CARNARVON CASTLE sailing with convoy SLF 10 for Plymouth 25/11 brought them on. See also (C. in C.S.A.1903/25) (1st S.L. 1200/27) Re preventing sailing of enemy ships by embargoes or injunctions (N.A. Buenos Aires 1611/22)

USSUKUMA Reported ready for sea. To be disguised as Portuguese QUANZA after sailing. (SO(1) Montevideo 2245/22).

TACOMA VREDENBURG Reported to have applied for 1600 tons of oil, fuel Ashore on Lobos Island regarded as total loss. (do) (~~all force~~ S.O.(6) Monte Video 2245/22)

NEPTUNE Intend to send NEPTUNE direct to patrol line not to A C Western Approaches (C.in C.S.A.1616/22)

East Indies.

WATUSSI Sailed from Mosambique 2000 (N.O. i/c Simonstown) Various information about German merchant ships in ports. (C. in C. E 1454/22)

SECRET.

22.11.39.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

Enemy Intelligence.(CONT.)

LIPPE — Sailed from Narvik a.m. loaded with iron ore (D.N.I. 2023/22).

GAUSS — Sailed (Oslo 1615/22).

TACOMA and LAHN — Arrived here a.m. (S.O.(1) Monte Video 0821/22).

WOLFRAM — Left Narvik p.m. 22/11 loaded with ore (Narvik 1024/23).

MUANSA — Arrived Narvik 22/11 (D.N.I. 1337/13).

? LEIPZIG — Swedish S.S. FRIGG was stopped 1315/22 in 57°40' N. 5°10' E. by cruiser amswering description of German cruiser LEIPZIG. Reliable report (C. in C. Rosyth 1855/25) 1530/22 RIMFAKSE (Norwegian) was stopped by LEIPZIG in 57°50' N, 5°30'E. but ignored signal and escaped in the dark; master said she was co-operating with a/c. (S.O.(1) Rosyth 1225/27).

Orders for Destroyers. — WYVERN, GROM, BLYSKAWICA proceed with dispatch to Kentish Knock. (C. in C. Nore 1944/22) Moored mines suspected, in 51°41'N. 1°48'E. (What they were doing see C. in C. Nore 0605/23).

Controlled m.f. Inchkeith. — Re control of traffic across controlled minefield in North Inchkeith Channel (C. in C. Rosyth 1629/22).

Casualties.

ARAGONITE — See U-Boat Campaign.

Orkneys and Shetlands. — Asking whether Orkneys and Shetlands have been made a protected area (A.C.O.S. 1959/22).

SECRET.

22.11.39
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS (CONT).

DUNBAR CASTLE. — DUNBAR CASTLE making water as result of collision with GLAN MACFARLANE in convoy HG 7 A 200° Start PT. 28 miles and proceeding to Southampton. (WOLVERINE 2320/22).

S/Ms. — Positions of British S/Ms. 0700/22 (Adty.D.C.1934/21) One in Zone C 1, one in Zone C 4, one in Zone A, one in Zone H, one in Zone E, one leaving Rosyth 1245 for Zone E.

Mines. — Enemy aircraft observed after dark drop magnetic mines by parachute from,1,000 ft. or less in Humber, Would, off Harwich and Southend, each aircraft one mine (D.M.S. 0303/22)

First ships to pass through channel is to be destroyer at high speed minimum of personnel on board if practicable nobody below decks. Calculate that destroyer at high speed will be clear of explosion. To do 4 runs between wrecks of SIMON BOLIVAR and BLACKHILL. (D.M.S.O. 240/22) WYVERN was detailed. Attempts to detonate mines gave no result. (C. in C. Nore 0536/22, 0545/22, 1407/22) WYVERN made another attempt 23/11 without success.

Re possible German desire not to compromise design (V.A.N.P. 1911/22).

German a/c dropping mines in Thames approaches between 2100 and 2300. One a/c was brought down off Isle of Grain by A/A fire (D.C. 0826/23).
Description of the mines dropped by a/cs. (Air Min. 1920/23).

Enemy Intelligence.

HINDENBURG. — Passed northwards in ballast 1100 (V.C. Haugesund 1121/22).

Destroyers in North Sea. — 11 enemy destroyers reported off Ameland on westerly course at 1400. A/Cs. endeavouring to locate. 22nd D.F. is not to come south of 51° 40'N unless acting on enemy report (C. in C. Nore 1921/22) (N.A. Copenhagen 1700/22).

HUGO OLDENDORFF — Expected to sail to-night (Reykjavik 1501/22) Now bunkering (C.G. Reykjavik 1043/22) Did not sail. Minor defect (Reykjavik 0942/23).

TRAUTENFELS — Sailed, all names painted out (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1748/22).

LIPPE ...

Convoys. French are running slow convoys speed 8 - 12 knots Casablanca to Bordeaux, St.Nazaire, Brest every 8 - 10 days; are 8 - 9 knotships for U.K. and French ports to be detained at Gibraltar for inclusion in these convoys ? (F.O.C.N.A. 2000/23).

ON3 ON3 to leave Methil 1630/23, HN3 to leave position H 1400/26 arriving Methil a.m.29/11 (C.in C. Rosyth 1000/22).

FS40 No ships are to be under way between 51° 20' N. and 52°7'N. and 1°12'E. and 2°5'E. during dark hours. Endeavour to adjust speed of FS40 accordingly (C.in C.Rosyth 0902/22).

HG7A In view of congestion in the Downs request arrival of HG7A is postponed until daylight 23/11 (V.A.Dover 1749/22) C.in C.W.A.1831/22).
The sailing of North and South bound convoys every day is to start as soon as possible. Rosyth Escort Force should reach total of 15 vessels by mid-December minimum number of escorts to be normally three but importance of starting daily convoys is such that reduction in that number must be accepted in first instance. Other arrangements (D.T.D.1949/22).

Traffic in Downs, Thames and Humber. All traffic stopped between Orfordness and the Downs (C.in C.Nore 0710/22).
Southbound traffic in the Downs may be released (V.A.Dover 1201/22).
North and South traffic through Downs stopped 1625. (On account of mining of ARAGONITE) (C.in C.Nore 1700/22).
Humber and Thames still closed to shipping (B.N.L.O.Marceau 1927/22).

Movements of neutral shipping. Request immediate arrangements may be made to prohibit movement of all neutral shipping west of Oxcars boom as from 1600/24 for about a week (C.in C.Rosyth 1129/22).

Small Ships. Small coasters up to 500 tons on East Coast need not adhere to searched channels (D.T.D.1728/22).

Suspicious vessel. C.G. reports suspicious vessel steering south close to Rattray Head 0255 (C.in C.Rosyth 0404/22).

Positions of French ships. 1200/22 (Duty Captain 0316/22)A, INDOMITABLE, TRIUMPHANT, MALIN (destroyers) patrolling in 44° 30'N. 9°30' W.B.A.M.C.BARFLEUR patrolling in 43°30'N. 11°30'W C. A.M.C.CHARLES PLUMIER patrolling in 42°30'N. 13°30'W.D. 3 patrol vessels in 42°30'N.,9°30'W, 2 in 41°30'N. 5°30'E.course 030°.

WAR DIARY. 22.11.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

HOME FLEET. C.in C. Home Fleet with NELSON, RODNEY and 6 destroyers is in the Clyde. GLASGOW, MAORI, ZULU as 21/11.

Northern Patrol.

Kirkwall defence.

V.A.N.P. concerned at impunity with which German aircraft reconnoitre Kirkwall without being attacked, although Air Station is in full view of anchorage. Effect on inhabitants and on neutral opinion (V.A.N.P.1959/22.) Asking for fighter squadron for defence of Orkneys and Shetlands for same reasons as above (A.C.O.S.1932/22) "I agree present situation is intolerable". Survey of situation and recommendations. (C.in C.H.F. 1201/23).

Orkneys and Faroes	2 cruisers	
Faroes to Iceland	3 "	3 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait	1 "	3 "

Air Reconnaissance. Normal patrols.
Assisting in U-boat hunt off Rattray Head.

Operation G.T.1. Two anti-submarine sweeps with air co-operation are being carried out 22/11 and daily until further orders with object of destroying U-boats approaching East coast. Arrangements. (D.O.D. 1620/21 C.in C.Nore 0038/22, 2358/22). Destroyers to be provided by 7th and 22nd Flotillas. Previous orders for destroyer patrols off Humber and Thames are cancelled. No destroyers of 7th D/F to be used for East Coast convoys. V.A.Dover provide destroyer patrol off N.Goodwins. C.in C.Nore establish in Galloper area what patrols he considers fit. (D.O.D.(H) 1621/22).

Operation G.T.1. is cancelled until further orders. Destroyers return to base (C.in C.Nore 1141/23).

Air Activity. (See also Mines)

MANELA — Two flights of enemy aircraft attacked MANELA. Driven off by A/A fire from COVENTRY. No hits, either side. They then attacked Lerwick Harbour with incendiary bomb, obtained one hit on flying boat which caught fire. The crew of the flying boat took to the water and were machine gunned. No hits. (Coastal Command 1330/22).

Convoys/

War Diary

23. 11. 39.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

AND MINING

S/m's. reported

1830 Fishing vessel PRIDE 2½ miles off Filey Brig in approx. 25 to 30 fathoms, all gear suddenly parted, suspect s/m but saw nothing (C. in C. Rosyth 1808/24).

2016 U-boat in position 42° 22' N., 11° W. (D.N.I. 2119/23). This was cancelled and not transmitted, H.W.R.

2145 to 2200 Observer Force, Postsoy, Aberdeen report noise in sea as of submarine charging batteries. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2229/23)

2200 Intercept, Ostend Radio, at 2200 GMT., received following:- SS SAN FLAX, 3 miles Seven Stones L.V. (position of submarine)

1650 By DF on 340 K's. position of unknown enemy unit 56° 05' N., 1° 10' E. (D.N.I. 1700/23).

Ships attacked

2016 ALMEDA STAR (14935 tons) gunned by s/m 42° 22' N. 11° 0' W. (Greenwich 20/6/23)

1926 Unknown vessel (? trawler) on fire 59° 20' N. 3° 45' W. due to mine or torpedo. (A warning of possibility of mines in this area was sent out 30/10) (F.O.C.O.S.1926/23) Confirmed that vessel was probably set on fire by enemy action. (F.O.C.O.S. 0037/24) (D.N.I. 1116/24).

HOOKWOOD sunk.

1545 SS. HOOKWOOD (1537 tons, Captain Ferguson) in convoy F.S.40 sunk by mine E (T) Tongue Lt. V. 3 to 3½ miles. (F.O.I/C. London 1645/26).
BITTERN picked up 15 survivors (8 injured) two of crew missing, believed killed. (BITTERN 1817/23).

BORKUM set on fire.

p.m. BORKUM (German prize 3670 tons) was set on fire by U-boat. Prize crew and crew rescued. 59° 21' N. 2° 56' W. at 2300/24.

FOREIGN COMMANDS (Continued)

One of the main objects of enemy raiders is to cause maximum delay and dislocation to British trade. Utmost importance that we should not be forced into imposing unnecessary restrictions on movements of British and Allied shipping. My policy is that shipping should not be held up or diverted in any particular area until positive information of the presence of an enemy in that area is received. Shipping should then, if possible, be diverted clear of the danger area rather than held up altogether. (C. in C.E.I. 1021/23)

China

Raider Sumatra — Polish Consul General, Batavia, reports raider in neighbourhood of South Coast, Sumatra, with intention of slipping through. Archipeligo to Vladivostok Report unconfirmed (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 1456/23)

Dispositions — Restlessness among German ships at Padang. Disposition A.M. 26/11 to P.M. 30/11 :- LIVERPOOL watch Padang and carry out air reconnaissance Mentawie Islands. French sloop ADMIRAL CHARNER Sunda Strait Patrol. PERSEUS diving patrol off Molaboh. ROVER patrol off Sabang. (C. in C. China 0720 Z/23)

Mediterranean

ARKADIA — Arrived Bonila from Istanbul (C. G. Galati 027/24).

War Diary. 23.11.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. ARK ROYAL and RENOWN to revert to the command of C. in C., South Atlantic and return Freetown at his discretion. (D.O.D. (F), 1415/23). This was cancelled, and ARK ROYAL and RENOWN to proceed in accordance with 0054/17 as amplified by C. in C., South Atlantic's 1305/18 and 0929/22. (D.C.N.S., 2111/23). (D.O.D.(F), 2140/23).

SUFFREN and KENT to W. Australia. Proposal to send the SUFFREN and KENT to Western Australia. (D.O.D. (F), 1359/23). Admiral Darlan has no objection. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 0926/24).

Submarine for the Falklands. Submarine to be sent to Falklands as soon as convenient, to operate vicinity of South Georgia to intercept German raiders or supply ships and give certain degree of protection to whaling industry. (D.O.D. (F), 1308/23).

FOREIGN COMMANDS

North Atlantic

Convoys — When it is possible to start an additional Gibraltar convoy it is intended to reduce the low limit for slow convoys to 8 knots (D.T.D.1826/23)

America & West Indies

FURIOUS, REPULSE — Defects to FURIOUS complete 26/11. Proposed FURIOUS, REPULSE and HYPERION sail 26/11 to cover convoy HXF 10 and HX 10 as far as approx. 040° West, thence to Bermuda for G. and T. Exercises (FURIOUS 1842/23)

ORION, EFFINGHAM — ORION, EFFINGHAM, HOTSPUR and HEREWARD may be used to intercept German ships 133 and 754 when attempting leave Gulf of Mexico (C. in C. A.W.I. 1320/23)

Canadian Troops — Re arrangements for shipping first two Brigade Groups Canadian Division (D. of Sea Transport 1432/23).

South Atlantic

SCHEER — Source B.3 (German messages) SCHEER will await supplies 5/6 December in 41° 26' 2" W. 37° 3' 9" S. Position considered to be unwatched.

U-boat disabled — "UBX is disabled at 34° 17'7" W. 21° 13' S. send help as she is out of control." Second message said to have been taken in by BAHIA LAURA (German) which left Monte Video 15/10. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1945/22)

SAO PAULO — Disguised as BRASILEIRO left Catadello loaded with cotton, night 23/24 Nov. Reported route used by German ships from S. America skirts Brazilian coast as far as Rio Grande do Norte thence direct to Iceland (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1146/24) Re stopping ships to verify (C.C.A.W.I. 1329/24).

Governor, Falklands, does not feel justified in detaining Chauvean Contingent. Arranging they without delay return before Christmas. Ambassador, Buenos Aires, suggests consulting Commodore, South America, before returning volunteers as reason to believe fresh enemy activity in S. Atlantic. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1200/23)

East Indies

Re W/T messages of enemy type intercepted by CORNWALL at Colombo (C. in C. E.I 0458/23)
British ship BARTON DUNMORE - 5 days overdue at Colombo. CLAN FERGUSON (due 20/11) at Aden. (Duty Captain 1948/23)
Reported that two German merchant ships left Tambicco (? Tambuzi) a few days ago escorted by German pocket battleships for N.E.I. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1821/23)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Hunting Groups as at present constituted.

Force

F.	BERWICK	In dock at Portsmouth
	YORK	Bermuda, then to Halifax, then home with convoy for repairs.
G.	CUMBERLAND) EXETER)	On patrol East of South America.
H.	AJAX	Off Montevideo
	ACHILLES	Off Rio de Janeiro
[illegible]	SUSSEX) SHROPSHIRE)	On patrol West of South Africa
I.	CORNWALL	Colombo
	DORSETSHIRE	Ceylon area
	EAGLE	Colombo
J.	MALAYA) GLORIOUS)	Aden area
with J. (at disposal of C. in C. E. I.)	RAMILLES ... ... Australian destroyers -	Off Aden now 200 miles E. of Colombo on their way to this port.
K.	ARK ROYAL) RENOWN)	Freetown
L.	FURIOUS) REPULSE)	Covering Atlantic convoys.
X.	DUPLEIX - 8" cruisers FOCH - 8" cruisers HERMES + 2 M.T.B.'s	With a number of destroyers, Forces X and Y are carrying out a concentrated patrol between Pernambuco and Sierre Leone.
Y.	STRASBOURG - Battleship ALGERIE - 8" cruiser 2 TB's.	
	NEPTUNE and British destroyers to join this force.	
M.	KENT) SUFFREN (Fr.)) ...	On patrol off Sumatra.

North Atlantic Convoy Duty

REVENGE, RESOLUTION, WARSPITE.
In addition there are 2 AMC's on this duty and 2 cruisers (EMERALD and EFFINGHAM).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Nab. Tower Owers Lt.V. — To be included in War Watching organisation. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2200/23)

Positions of s/m's. — 0700/23 (Duty Captain 0054/23) One in Zone C.I. One in Zone 0.4. One in Zone A. One in Zone H. One arriving Blyth. One in Zone E.1.

Position of French Forces — 1200/23 (D.C.0335/23) A. Escort vessels, one on patrol off Finisterre, B. Two off Vigo. C. One AMC on patrol NQVS 1540. D. CHACAL MISTRAL with convoy OG.7. E. TIGRE, PANTHERE with convoy H.G.8. F. One escort vessel on patrol off Cadiz. TROMBE (destr. 1 left Gib. for Oran 1350. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1436/23).

French casualty — Minesweeper MOUETTER towed into St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, engine trouble (1719/23).

WEATHER

North Sea - Wind S.W. moderate to strong. Visibility good in North but rain with poor visibility in south.

Channel - Wind S.W., moderate to strong. Visibility poor.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

WESTERWALD — WESTERWALD was observed off Haroy Fjiord 63° 45' N. southbound, speed 18 knots. 1200 19/11 (C. in C. H.F. 1247/23).

German Fleet — Dispositions:-

17/11. GNEISENAU, NÜRNBERG, LEIPZIG, at Heligoland and to remain until 24/11.
18/11. VON SPEE, SCHLESIEN in Schillig Roads.
20/11. SCHARNHORST, HIPPER, SCHLESWIG, HOLSTEIN at Wilhemshaven Roads.
KARLSRUHE has not been seen at North Sea ports or at Kiel.

LEDA — Has left Oslo (Oslo 1523/23).
RIO DE JANEIRO — Ready to sail (Consul Vigo 1935/23)
ARUCAS — Also appears ready -do-
ORIZABA — No sign of offensive preparations visible (-do-)
KARNAK — Description -do-
MOREA — -do-

Blockade runners - route — Information ~~for~~ from Captain Gainard, Master of CITY OF FLINT (N.A. Oslo 1800/23:- Ships attempt to break blockade from West, keeping in sight of coast of Greenland until 81° N. then work Southward until lights of Tromso are sighted (Passed to ~~by~~ C. in C. H. F. and Rosyth DNI.2005/24)

WESTWALD — Has masked armament 6-15 cm. 6 smaller guns, 4 A.A. etc.

AACHEN — Left night 23/24 loaded with ore (Narvik 0947/24)

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Downs — Owing to congestion in the Downs ships are now having to anchor in theprohibited area. Suggest giving consideration to stopping Eastbound traffic in the Channel until shipping can be released to Northwards from Downs (V.A.Dover 1001/23).

Humber Open — Humber now open (D.C. 0826/23)

Routing of 3 ships on East Coast — Shipping for East Coast ports north of Thames to be routed outside Galloper and Gabbard and sailed independently at daylight 24th (D.T.O.2252/23). Ships for London and East Coast ports should continue to be routed normally (D.T.D.1820/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Thames approaches — Patrols have never been at full strength owing to casualties etc. and have not prevented mining of Shipwash, Sunk and Edinburgh Channels. Our effort is too dispersed for available resources. Propose to keep at least one channel to Thames open. Intend to use Edinburgh Channel and Knock Deep (C. in C. Nore 1956/23).

Mines. a/c brought down — German a/c dropping mines in Thames approaches between 2100 and 2300 (22/11 understood) One a/c brought down off Isle of Grain by A.A. fire (D.C. 0826/23)

A German mine dropped from aircraft has been recovered complete. (D.N.I. 1947/23)

Neutrals in convoy — Neutral vessels trading to British and Allied ports may be sent to convoy assembly ports and included in convoy provided conditions laid down in Adty. message 1805 18/10 are complied with and speed of vessel is not less than 9 knots (D.N.I. 2220/23)

Prizes scuttled. — Procedure to be adopted to try to prevent intercepted enemy ships from scuttling themselves (Hd. of M. 1652/23).

Dutch Shipping — Most Dutch ship owners decided to continue sailings from Dutch ports except in the area near the entrance to the Thames until a safe shipping route is instituted by Great Britain. (Press)

KONSUL HENDRIK FISSER — (4458 tons) was intercepted north of the Faroe Is. 63° N. 7° W. 23/11 and proceeded for Leith with prize crew from CALYPSO at 1430 (VANP 1030/24) arrived Leith 0100/26 (But see 27/11) Her noon positions 12/11 to 22/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 1757/28) Further re her movements and intentions (C. in C. Rosyth 1159/28). See N.I.D. 01972/39, German Prize KONSUL HENDRIK FISSER, Report on.

BLYSKAWICA New Captain — Polish C. in C. has appointed Commander Georg Unecki to command BLYSKAWICA. He will arrive Harwich 24/11 (D.N.I. 1649/23).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Air Searches arranged:- (See also Air Min. X. 2235/23)

(a) Continuous patrol from Wick to Norwegian coast 30 miles south of Bergen.
(b) Parallel trade search by 4 flying boats starting from datum line North point of Shetlands to Norwegian coast and flown on course 016° to a depth of 350 miles.
(c) An air search by flying boat PBY between the northern limit of search "B" and the North-East corner of Iceland (Flying boat PBY left Faroes at 1100 but had a wireless breakdown and returned to her base).
(d) A continuous patrol between Orkneys and Shetlands.
(e) A continuous patrol between Orkneys and Faroes.
(f) An anti-s/m patrol in Minches, in case C. in C. uses this route.
(g) 4 Skuas from Wick patrolling 40 miles to S.E'ward of line Fair I. Channel - Shetlands.

At 2200 VANP ordered AMC CHITRAL, who was about 60 miles from RAWALPINDI's position, and 3 trawlers to search the position where RAWALPINDI was engaged. CHITRAL picked up 11 ratings survivors, and DEUTSCHLAND was stated by the Germans to have saved 26, one officer and 5 ratings armed guard were not in ship. Ship's company numbered 307. (VANP 1703/24).

1545 DEUTSCHLAND and possibly other units in position 63° 38' N., 11° 55' W. probably homeward bound. Other enemy ships may proceed from Germany to support (R.A.(S) to s/ms. on patrol).

Direction of wind from 23/11 was 020° force 5 (NEWCASTLE 1605/28) Northerly force 2 to 3 (CHITRAL 1512/28)

Identity of DEUTSCHLAND — German official wireless 28/11 referred to her as DEUTSCHLAND. See NEWCASTLE 0618/29.

Harwich and Humber Forces — All available destroyers are at half hour's notice.

Norwegian Convoy — Recall Norwegian Convoy (C.in C. H.F. to C.in C. Rosyth 1605/23).

Northern Patrol — More armed guards required. Patrol is starting to work well and achieve results. (FOCNA. 1823/17/11, C. in C. H.F. 0101/23).

Traffic in Downs released — All traffic in Downs released at daylight (23/11) keeping clear of dangerous area in QZ 123 (V.A. Dover 0301/23).

Thames closed and opened — Traffic temporarily stopped in Thames, hope to be able to resume before noon 23/11. (C. in C. Nore 0605/23). Thames being opened on restricted channel (D.C.0826/23).

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23. 11. 39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

RAWALPINDI sunk

M.O.I. 6225/39
H.M.S. DELHI & CALYPSO
R. of P in connection with
RAWALPINDI –
DEUTSCHLAND
engagement.

At 1540 AMC RAWALPINDI on patrol between Faroes and Iceland in 63°40' N. 12° 31' E. sighted the DEUTSCHLAND and reported that she was being chased to the South East. DEUTSCHLAND and a second ship sank RAWALPINDI in half an hour. The last report giving her position was 1605. At 1746 NEWCASTLE (Captain J. Figgins) on patrol in same area reported sighting gun flashes and four minutes later the ship in sight was on fire. DELHI and NEWCASTLE were ordered to shadow the DEUTSCHLAND, and CALYPSO and CERES to act as striking force for night attack (V.A.N.P. 1655/23) 1815 NEWCASTLE sighted an enemy ship, soon clearly seen and considered to be DEUTSCHLAND, with a second ship to starboard of her, 6 miles off, and proceeded to shadow but lost touch at 1824 in heavy rain.
At 2000 NEWCASTLE altered course to 105° considering it probable the enemy were making for the North Sea (M.015763/39 H.M.S. NEWCASTLE, R. of P. 23/11/39 sinking of RAWALPINDI). Evidence of survivors of RAWALPINDI as to identity of German ships, CHITRAL 2257/24, D.N.I. 1434/27. Two heavy German ships were concerned (D.C.2111/24, NEWCASTLE 1952/25).

The Admiralty appreciation of the situation was as follows:-

(a) DEUTSCHLAND and the other unknown ship endeavouring to get home.
(b) Having run into Northern Patrol and not knowing whereabouts of Home Fleet they did not consider it safe to make a dash for home.
(c) At present they are to North-Eastward of Iceland, waiting until hue and cry dies down to return to Germany.
(d) It is possible, however, that they are not yet going home, and consequently HOOD, REPULSE, FURIOUS, WARSPITE and it is hoped DUNKERQUE are sailing for Icelandic waters (C.N.S. 1425/24).

Dispositions ordered by C. in C., H.F.

(1) To locate DEUTSCHLAND:
SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE, DELHI, KANDAHAR, KASHMIR, TARTAR.
(2) To Fair Island Channel:
SOUTHAMPTON, EDINBURGH, AURORA and 2 destroyers.
(3) To North Eastwards of Shetlands:
GLASGOW and 6 destroyers
(4) To Pentland Firth:
One destroyer
(5) To 80 miles west of Shetlands:
Five "C" and "D" Class cruisers.
(6) To North of Faroes:
Two "C" Class cruisers.
(7) To 120 miles S.W. of Faroes:
NORFOLK and SUFFOLK (from Denmark Strait, will arrive 1300/24).
(8) 5 s/ms. from Rosyth and Blyth to a patrol line running 250° from Lister Light (S.W. Norway).
(9) C. in C. H.F. with NELSON, RODNEY, DEVONSHIRE and 11 destroyers were in position 20 miles south of Barron Head (southern point of the Hebrides) proceeding Northwards at 20 knots at 0500/24.

24.11.39.
Friday.

s/m's attacked

Stated in the press that the French surveying vessel AMIRAL MOUCHEZ Captain Saulnier, which was equipped for A/S work destroyed by d/c's a U-boat which fired a torpedo at her whilst she was on convoy duty.

24.11.39.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING

Ships attacked

0905 S.S. MANGALORE (8986 tons) sunk by explosion in Hawk Road 288° 1½ miles Spurn Lt. House. Cargo manganese ore and pig iron. 60 survivors landed at Grimsby. Position corresponds to merchant vessel's report of track of torpedo fired by seaplane 21/11. Evidence just received points to this having in fact been a parachuted mine. (F.O. Humber 1145/24) Pilot and 76 members of crew landed at Grimsby.

SUSSEX Damaged

1626 M.V. SUSSEX (11063 tons P.& O.S.N.Co.) struck a mine off Southend. Returned to Gravesend under her own power.

s/m's reported

1730 Doubtful report of s/m on surface by men fishing on rocks, steering N. about 3 miles South of Tiumpan Head about 1730. (C-in-C Rosyth 1911/24) After investigation NOIC Stornoway considers report highly unreliable (C-in-C Rosyth 2110/24)

1555 s/m reported from St. Colm and Rattray Head on surface proceeding northerly course following small steamer. Bearings and distance 320° 6 miles from Rattray Head and 95° 3½ miles from Kinnaird Head 1620. (C-in-C Rosyth 1620/24 1641/24)

1420 A Gourdon fisherman landed about 1700 reports periscope and wake ¼ mile East of Muchalls steering S.W. (C-in-C Rosyth 1732/24)

1143 Position of unknown mining unit fixed by D/F on 4370 Kc/s as 53° 45'N, 5° 42'E possibly patrol vessel (DNI 1201/24)

1647 s/m reported 4 miles 090° Sunk Lt. V. KEITH and GREYHOUND proceeding to hunt. (C-in-C Nore 1717/24 Capt. (S) 3W.S.P.1758/24)

1715 Crossings observed on No 11 loop at 1715 E. to W. (V.A. Dover 2224/24)

* (?Floating mines)

1608 DIOMEDE repors possible periscope S. of Brimsness 58° 46'N 3° 14'W. approx. (S.N.O. Scapa Forces 1608/24 1617/24)

0618 Suspicious light very low on water in Lunan Bay (message from D.O. Aberdeen) Coastguard investigating (C-in-C Rosyth 0618/24)

2100 Four U-boats reported off Schiermonnikoog with 2 destroyers and 1 aircraft. All available aircraft from 16 Group searching (C-in-C Nore 1121/25)

24.11.39
Friday.

America & West Indies

French reliable source reports off Fort Dauphin, Madagascar 1000/23 armed ship painted grey steering North at high speed (DNI 1318/24)

Orders to Achilles — Orders to ACHILLES. Move to Pernambuco area, return to Rio de Janeiro area if raider activities commence in South Atlantic etc. (Cdr. Cdg. S.A.D.A W.I. 1926/24)

REPULSE
FURIOUS — Left Halifax 1600 for Icelandic waters. See Home Fleet.

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Falkland Is. Defence	Disturbing account of defence conditions on the island. Insufficient ammunition, insufficient men and lack of discipline among islanders. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1750/24)
ADOLPH MOERMAN	Short of fuel, intends to call at Penambuco. (C-in-C S.A. 1257/24)
WINDHUK	Left same time, but at higher speed, fuel state unknown. (S.O.(I) Cape Town says she had 1200 tons (do)
	V.C. Natal reports seeing destroyer nationality unknown steaming south 1315 24/11 (S.O.(I) Monte Video 2315/24)
	N.A. Rio de Janeiro reports A1 Natal destroyers nationality unknown, probably not Brazilian passed close steering south 1315/24 B2. s/m sighted on surface 18/11 35 miles N.E. of Calcanhar (S.O.(I) Freetown 1555/24)
MONTEVIDEO	Under arrest at Rio Grande do Sul at request of a British firm which has a mortgage on her
WINDHUK	My 1318/24 further information indicates vessel is not a warship but may be German vessel WINDHUK (D.N.I. 1904/24)

China

Chinese personnel	Difficulties with Chinese dockyard workmen and personnel serving in ships (C-in-C China 0926Z/23)

North Atlantic

Fuel for belligerents	Rule of only supplying sufficient fuel to belligerent vessels to enable them to reach nearest national port is to our advantage. Ask Portuguese not to change rule (Hd of M 1632/24)
SATURNIA	KEPPEL to board off Lisbon if weather permits (FOCNA 1150/24) Not to be boarded off Lisbon (Hd. of M 1345/26) Reported to have war materials stowed under general cargo. No indication of reliability of report (S.O.(I) Gib. 1443/28)

Mediterranean

Re despatch of German and Italian arms to N.W. Frontier of India. (MICE Recd.1450/24)

24.11.39.
Friday.

French Positions

Noon 24/11 Cruisers LE MALIN, LE TRIOMPHANT, L'INDOMPTABLE in 44½° N., 9½° W., course 210°. Auxiliary cruiser in 43½° N., 11½° W on patrol. 2 Escort Vessels off Vigo on patrol (Duty Captain 0456/24)

WEATHER

		Wind	Visibility
0500	North Sea	W to NW Fresh	Poor, in S good in N
	Horns Reef	SSW Strong	Poor
	Channel	N. Fresh	Moderate
	Western Approaches	N. Fresh	Good

Outlook:- Similar conditions, visibility improving. Horns Reef wind veering to N.W.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Raiders

As a result of information regarding German-raiders in Indian Ocean and that LAHN and TACOMA have probably arrived at Monte Video CANBERRA and AUSTRALIA are to be sent to S.W. coast temporarily. Will patrol off Leeuwin from 29/11 to 2/12 then return to S.E. coast (Australian C'wealth N.B.1243/24)

East Indies

?WINDHUK
?WATUSSI

Fort Dauphin in S.E. Madagascar reports sighting armed merchant vessel painted grey proceeding north at 1000 23/11. ?was this CITY OF SIDNEY (Br.) cf. 0613Z/26 (?from C-in-C E1) Possibly WINDHUK (GLOUCESTER 1710Z/24)

South Atlantic

Air patrols

Re. air petrols from Freetown (maintained to depth of 50 miles) and by French from Dakar (C-in-C S.A. 1103/24)

HAVENSTEIN
ANATOLIA
NIENBURG
USSUKUMA
TACOMA
LAHN

Various sources indicate presence of German warships in these waters early next month. HAVENSTEIN sailed from Spain under Italian flag; is due to meet a ship from Buenos Aires 40 miles off Monte Video to whom she will transfer oil and stores. Then to oil and store a cruiser near Necochea. Understood on board ANATOLIA that German Government will arrange bunking outside Rio de la Plata of NIENBURG, ANATOLIA, USSUKUMA, TACOMA, LAHN. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1600/24)

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Bremen	2 destroyers, one T.B.
Hamburg	2 destroyers, about 20 AMC's in course of reconstruction.
At Sea	SPEE and another armoured ship (DEUTSCHLAND) HIPPER, 16s/m's. U44 was put into service 4/11.
HUGO OLDENDORFF TRITON, NAJADE	Sailed p.m. 24/11 (Reykjavik 1653/24) TRITON sailed. NAJADE arrived (Oslo 1401/24)
Naval Unit off Iceland.	D/F bearings at 0700 indicate German Naval Unit possibly raider between bearings 320° and 300° from Faroe Is. No indication whether north or south of Iceland (DNI 1145/24) Amend bearings to read 310° and 330° from Faroe Is. (DNI 1259/24)
Kiel Canal	Commercial traffic is often stopped to allow passage of shipping carrying troops and mechanical transport from East Germany in order to save railway traffic and petrol (A2) (N.A. Copenhagen 1755/24)
	Shipping in Belts is confined to coasting craft for time being. (DNI 2040/24, N.A. Copenhagen 1145/25)
MUANSA	Narvik reports MUANSA sailed night 24/25 November loaded with ore (DNI 1200/25)
Destroyers reported 11 Cross Sand Lt.V.	Trawler WARWICKSHIRE reports 3 unknown destroyers 5 miles S. 30° E. of Cross Sand Lt. V. course N. at 0040/24 (C-in-C Nore 0426/24)
Suspicious Lights.	Lights resembling Verey lights observed near Holton St. Mary and Mistley. Suspect some connection with enemy a/c's. (C-in-C Nore 2006/24)
Blockade	French ask is blockade of German exports now in force (BNLO Marceau 1234/24) Not yet (Hd. of M. 2006/24)
Air Activity	2 German a/c's over Shetlands 1018 (FOCOS 1035/24) Enemy a/c's were over Thames Estuary from 2030 to 2230/24, flying very low, possibly mine-laying.
Enemy mining	1640 GROM saw a/c dropping 4 parachutes in southern end of Barrow Deep.
Casualties	S.S. PEGU reported ashore 2105 (Seaforth Radio 2200/24)

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Bombing restriction

Bombing restriction should be enforced between lines joining Newcastle to Hantsholm and Fifeness to Oberstad during whole of 24/11

Re. opening fire on A/c's at night. Suggestions (C.N.S. 2033/24)

Enemy Intelligence

Mines

Swedish captain told captain of a neutral merchant ship that an enormous number of mines without mooringswere being prepared in Germany. It was intended to throw them round the British coast. Informant states he himself has seen a number of German trawlers under Danish flag fitted with rails. He has heard the Danes have sent aircraft to look at them. (N.I.D. 01926/39)

? LIPPE — Ship name unknown 7000 tons leaving Trondheim p.m. to-day (Adty. D.N.I. 1616/24, 1933/24)

HEIN HOYER $. — arrived and left Malmo for ore (Trondheim 1530/24)

S.VON UTRECHT — Reported arriving shortly for ore(do.)

TREUENFELS — TREUENFELS passed Haugesund 1500 southwards in cargo (Vice-Consul 1558/24)

Ships off Norway

Germans have orders to pass certain stretch of coast at night, this, I presume is around Jaeren (N.A. Oslo 1200/24)

Position of Fleet.

State of German ships 20/11 source considered A1 (N.A. Hague 1320/24):-

Kiel: GNEISENAU, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, SCHARNHORST, NÜRNBERG, KÖLN, LEIPZIG, BLÜCHER, U5, 7, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 44, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54, 2 destroyers, 2 T.B's, 11 M.S., 5 P.V. sailed from Kiel U9, 14, 49, 60, 61, and 10 P.V.'s.

Flensburg SCHEER, 4 T.B.'s, 10 M.S.

Swinemünde KÖNISBERG, 4 destroyers, 2 M.S., Minelayer KAISER. Sailed Minelayer, Transport.

Danzig SCHLESIEN

Wilhelmshaven 2 destroyers, 2 s/m's, 6 T.B.'s. In dock 6 s/m's, one M.L. and 2 Aux. Cruisers under repair 2 destroyers 3 large Aux. Cr.

Heligoland 8 M T.B.'s

Emden 5 M.S., AMC MOEWE

Cuxhaven 14 Motor M.S., 3 P.V.'s

War Diary.

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

A D/F bearing at 0700 indicated a German naval unit bearing approximately N.W. from Faroe Is., but did not show whether it was North or South of Iceland. (See Enemy Intelligence.)

Search for DEUTSCHLAND continues (see 23/11)
WARSPITE left convoy HX9 in mid-Altantic and proceeded towards Denmark Strait.
REPULSE and FURIOUS sailed from Halifax 1600/24 for Icelandic waters, but had to return owing to damage by heavy weather to Y turret of REPULSE, impairing her fighting and seagoing efficiency (see 27/11)
Three A.M.C.'s from Denmark Strait returning to the Butt of Lewis.

Dutch shipping

Dutch using tug fitted with p.v.'s to escort merchant ships (Press)

Belgian coast

Pass from Gris Nez to Zuidcote closed, apparently for sweeping on account of mines. (Press)

Defence of Orkneys and Shetlands.

It is under consideration to form a Fleet Air Arm Fighter Squadron of 12 to be based at Hatston as emergency measure for defence of Orkneys. R.A.F. asked whether they can loan machines. (D.N.A.D.1906/24)

Shipping in Downs.

101 ships left the Downs from time of release at daylight 23/11 to 24/11.

Ramsgate

Proposed to place C.C.B. and N.C.S. Ramsgate under command V.A. Dover (D.O.D.(H) 0056/24)

Tyne defence

A/S group 23 is to be sailed for Tyne for local defence of port (D.A/S.W1853/24)

Convoys

FN41 (Thames to Firth of Forth) delayed sailing due to weather (C-in-C Nore 0850/24) SL8 (Freetown to U.K.) hove to 47° 40'N 43'W full gale N.N.E. for last 9 hours (CILICIA 0417/24)
Scandinavian convoys closely watched by Germans.cf. 21/11. German intention later to make large scale attack on convoy. Suggest to convoy further north. (NA Oslo 1200/24) (Passed to C-in-C HF and Rosyth D.N.I. 2005/24)
GLASGOW provide cover for OHN3 from daylight 24/11 to dark 27/11 (RA (D) HF 1427/24)
FNH2 is postponed 24 hours. (C-in-C Rosyth 2224/24)
ON3 again postponed (D.T.D. 1051/24)

s/m positions

0700/24 (Adty. D.C.0036/24, 0519/24)
One in Zone H, one in C1, one in C4, one approaching ZGCT 5000, four proceeding from Blyth and Rosyth to positions between QSLZ 5056 and D.V.R.A. 0707, one in Zone E.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. (Contd.).

WANDERER and VISCOUNT and one flying boat searching area at daylight tomorrow in which ROYSTON GRANGE sunk (C-in-C., W.A.2050/25).

1235 S/M reported off Brough Bay, position 58° 40'N., 3°19'W.,(ACOS,1320/25 and 1449/25).

S/M's reported. 1552 By D.F. unknown enemy unit 54°53'N.,05°50'E. (D.N.I.,1634/25).

S/M's attacked. 2000 ESCORT attacked good contact 80 miles S.W. of Land's End 49°17'N.,07°14'W. Result unknown. (Escort, 2114/25).

1555 A/S trawler SEDGEFLY attacked good target off Harwich 51°53'N.,01°43'E. Air bubbles seen and strong smell of oil, but no other evidence. Sweep was carried out a.m/26.

2050 Six attacks by VERSATILE and WITHERINGTON, probably successful (see ROYSTON GRANGE), (C-in-C., W.A., 2050 and 2221/25).

2300 French cruiser INDOMPTABLE attacked S/M 43°30'N 11°30'W and was later missed by a torpedo. The U-boat had sunk the USSKMOUTH here.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

More than 200 German mines which had broken loose from their moorings in the recent storms have already been washed up on the Yorkshire Coast (Press 25/11).

ROYSTON GRANGE sunk.

1323 S.S. ROYSTON GRANGE (5144 tons) torpedoed 150 miles W.S.W. Lands End. Homeward bound in convoy S.L.8, but had fallen behind as result of heavy weather (?) Survivors were picked up by another ship in convoy, WITHERINGTON and VERSATILE made 6 attacks on the S/M. Believed destroyed. (C-in-C W.A. 2043/25).

1219 Unknown merchant ship, perhaps trawler, was a attacked by U-boat 20'S.E. of Aberdeen, 30 miles E. of Girdleness (C-in-C., Rosyth 1340/25). ICARUS, ILEX, ESKIMO hunted.

USKMOUTH sunk.

2350 At 2300/25 the S.S. USKMOUTH (2453 tons) was found by the French capsized in position 100 miles W.N.W. Finisterre. Ship had been sunk by shell fire from U-boat, French INDOMPTABLE picked up one survivor and an Italian ship S.S. JUVENTUS picked up the remainder, except for three who are missing (Landsend Radio, from JUVENTUS 1035/27). INDOMPTABLE (Fr. destr.) arrived in time to carry out attack, but without visible result. (Lands End Radio 0130/27) 43°30'N 11°30'W (FOCNA 2250/26) Net result 2 missing.

S/M's reported.

2043 S/M known to be operating between 43°and 45°N., 10° and 12°W. WANDERER and VISCOUNT informed (C-in-C., W.A. 2043/25).

0700 4 large S/M's accompanied by 2-4 aircraft and 2 destroyers off Hook of Holland steering S.W. V.A. Dover 1027/25). BRILLIANT on northern patrol Elbow to N. Goodwin (C-in-C., Nore, 1834/25). If nothing heard by 0800 destroyers ordered to return to harbour. Patrols as in my 1506 (report of enemy force) are to be re-established before dark. (C-in-C., Nore to D.22, KEITH, BLYSKAWICA, D.7. JUPITER 2202/25).

1323 S/M in position 49°D1'N., 9°16'W. (D.N.I.1429/25 (ROYSTON GRANGE torpedoed).
ESKIMO requested soon as possible to join ICARUS and ILEX searching for U-boat in vicinity Q.S.S. 0528 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1513/25).

1045 By D/F on 4920Kc's in position 59½°N., 3°E - bei shadowed (D.N.I., 1104/25).

0200 U-boat was sighted on surface 10 miles N.W.Tripo (E. of Dieppe) (I.C. 0279/39).

1416 S/M reported 53°26'N., 03°51'W by D.F. MONTROSE to join WALKER and hunt (C-in-C., W.A.1557/25). One S/M probably now reached Western Approaches from the north and two more may arrive tomorrow. The two still left in Bay of Biscay or vicinity may now be expected to return home. Seem to be two small S/M's in English or Bristol Channel probably laying mines. (D.N.I., 1202/25).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

New Zealand.

WEISS — No trace of WEISS having toured in Area 11 (SO(1) Wellington 1704/25).

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Intelligence. Summary of report from secret source, Cadiz, regarding U-boat supplies and intelligence and use of German merchant ships in neutral ports. (S.O.(I), Gibraltar, 1256/25).

Mediterranean.

AEgean Cruise. Admiralty 1926/17 and 1515/24. Consider it impossible about Dec. 4th for Circular C. Admiral has had influential Admiralty concurrence for cruise of two cruisers in AEgean Sea. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 0939/25).

South Atlantic.

Submarine for the Falklands. Admiralty 1308/23. Programme for H.M.S. SEVERN. (C. in C., S.A., 0929/25).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

AJAX off approach to Bahia Blanca outside 3 mile limit waiting for USSUKUMA (~~C-in-C~~ Cdre. Amdy. S.A.D. AWI 1945/25).

COLUMBUS — Crew trouble reported in German S.S. COLUMBUS (32,565 tons) at Tampico and in other ships (S.O(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1450/25).

HOEGH SCOUT — Arrived Galveston 25/11 (N.S.H. Ottawa 2047/27).
British S.S. PIAKO reported sighting suspicious tanker 1622/13 hove to in 47°16'N 41°4'N, Norwegian flag, colour grey one funnel auburn, deeply laden, name blurred but last letters definitely SCOUT. Cruiser astern approx. 10,000 tons. Possibly vessel was HOEGH SCOUT which sailed N. Orleans 1/10 for Oslo and/or Trondhjem (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1002/25).

South Atlantic.

TACOMA — Stated that embargo placed on cargo of U.S.A. firm (SO(I) Montevideo 1955/25).

DRESDEN — Arrived Santos, Brazil 25/11. (Left Valparaiso 19/10).

WESERMÜNDE — Transferred to Honduras flag and renamed D. CHIRRIPO. Transfer recognised by H.M. Govt.

East Indies.

Raiders C-in-C's appreciation of situation — My appreciation of present situation is that enemy who knows our strong point is endeavouring by (a) sinking (b) being reported and (c) spreading reports to get us to weaken our disposition so that he may eventually attack where he can do us most harm, i.e. in local area, Ceylon area most probable.
Since AFRICA SHELL was sunk reports that warships are soon to raid Gulf of Aden, Sumatra, Australia; believed put about by enemy in hope of effecting dispersal of our forces.
So long as C.G.S. staff remain in unfrequented areas he does us no vital harm. His supplies not inexhaustible. He may be forced to areas where shipping is thickest; we can best him if such areas strongly held. I do not recommend despatch of strong force to unfrequented areas at expense of leaving important routes less well protected.
Recommend weaker force with speed to escape; Force I remains Ceylon area, Force K remain Diego Suarez area as long as can be spared. HOBART reinforce GLOUCESTER in Madagascar and Seychelles area, RAMILLIES between Force I and Force J and Bombay areas. (C-in-C EI 1407/25

North Atlantic.

French ships. — 0515 ALGERIE and two French destroyers passed west to east (80(I) Gib. 0946/25).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

S/M's

Positions of s/m's 0700/25.(D.S.2034/34).
One in 2KAA 1012 proceeding through 2KAA3831 to Zone H.
One in Zone C.1.
One in Zone C.4.
One in 2 G.C.T.5000
One in YXJN 3505
One in Zone H.
Four on patrol between QSLZ 4050 and DVRA 0010.

Enemy S/M's off Schiermonnikoog.

Information received that at 2100/24 four large U-boats were reported off Schiermonnikoog with two destroyers and one a/c. All available a/c's from No.16 group are searching. Two more destroyers are to be bought to immediate notice (C-in-C Nore 1121/25). French sources reported this force twice sighted again 25/11 off Holland further to southward Four French destroyers from Dunkirk proceeded to search for this force and special patrols by the Harwich destroyers were taken up to guard the Thames approaches. (D.C.N.S. dly,R.). The French destroyers failed to find the force.

Shipping in Downs.

A further 102 ships left the Downs 25/11.

Eire coast defence.

Announced by Press that Eire are ~~arming~~ arranging for special coastal defence service of T.B's and P.V.'s of trawler type. (D.N.I. 1519/25).

Harwich congestion.

In view of large increase of Naval warships at Harwich request arrangements to be cancelled whereby Dutch merchant vessels discharge at this port (FOIC Harwich 1842/25).

N.C.S. Invergordon.

A Class IV Naval Control Staff is being established at Invergordon (D.T.D. 1223/25).

0500	Wind.	Weather. Visibility.
North Sea	N.W. Moderate	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef.	N.W. Moderate.	Good.
Channel.	N.W. Light.	Moderate to good.
W.Approaches	S.W. Moderate	Very good.
Outlook	Unsettled in North.	

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

HINDENBURG — Cargo steamer about 8000 tons reported passing Tromsoe 1300/25 north bound in ballast (Tromsoe 1325/25). Confirmed to be HINDENBURG. (Tromsoe 1755/25).

Minefield. — The danger zone of the south entry of the Sound (danger zone A) has been extended in a northerly direction, it has been announced by a German Navy warning.
The danger zone is now circumscribed by the following points:-

(1)	55° 19.5'	North	13° 00' East.
(2)	55° 14'	North	13° 00' East.
(3)	55° 04'	North	12° 34' East.
(4)	55° 05.5'	North	12° 21.3' East.
(5)	55° 15.5'	North	12° 46' East.
(6)	55° 18.7'	North	12° 46' East.
(7)	55° 20.95'	North	12° 43.7' East.
(8)	55° 19.75'	North	12° 44.8' East.

The announcer added that the border of the danger zone between (6) and (7) and (7) & (8) respectively, are running in the arc of a circle with a radius of three nautical miles. Reception was bad and listener could not hear from which centre this circle was born.

Minelayer mined. — Small German minelayer (? patrol boat) (said to be 700 tons) mined and sunk by floating mine in German minefield 1250 3 miles S.S.E. of extremity island Langeland, North of Kiel Bay. Reported that 15 or 16 of crew of 20 missing. (N.A. Copenhagen 1650/25).

Minelayers. — Reported A4 that two Swedish cargo vessels adapted for minelaying by Cockum shipyard, Malmo, to German order. They have sailed. (Copenhagen 1850/25)

LEDA — Sailing from Halden 27/11 with cargo burnt ore direct for Germany (V.C. Halden 1730/25).

WESTWALD — Reported by Trondhjem 20/11. Ship now returned to Germany. Norwegians took no action as armament only 3.6 inch guns. Ship's complement was larger than is usual. Believed ship failed in mission as supply ship owing to reported extremely nervous state of captain. As~~signed~~ regards German trawlers, papers are regularly inspected whilst on passage through Norwegian waters, but apparently no search is made. Cargoes north-bound salt, southbound fish from fishing ground in Artic (N.A.Oslo 1900/25).

Routes. — Master of EMMI (Finnish) states German ships in iron ore trade leave Norwegian territorial waters north and south bound near Narvik (S.O.(1) Rosyth 1315/25).

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

C-in-C H.F. with cruisers of Northern Patrol and destroyers between Norway and Shetlands, continuing search for German warships which sank RAWALPINDI. At 1952/25 NEWCASTLE made amplifying report insistin that the ship was DEUTSCHLAND class and the other a smaller type. HOOD and DUNKERQUE escorted by destroyers rendezvous 1500/20 20 miles south of Scilly Is, and proceeded to Icelandic waters, to patrol 240 miles south of Iceland.
DIF at 1107 indicated German a/c's shadowing ships in approx. 59°0'N 1° 0'E (DNI 1146/25).

Air Reconnaissance.

Bomber command carried out a reconnaissance over Heligoland, Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven, but no large German warships were seen. (H.Q. Bomber Cmd.1735/25. Air Min. 2135/25, 2215/25, 2304/25, 2130/25 says 6 ships, cruisers or destroyers but not battleships at anchor at Wilhelmshaven).

Ramsgate. C.C.B. & N.C.S.

Naval Control Service and Contraband Control Base at Ramsgate transferred from Nore to Dover Command 1200, 25/11 (D.O.D(H) 1222/25). See also C-in-C (Nore 1057/24, V.A.Dover 1040/24).

Nore Protection.

Protection of harbours and channels of Nore Command. (C-in-C Nore 1303/25).

German P.V. Mined. 1250

German patrol vessel 700 tons struck floating mine 3 miles S.S.E. extremity of Langeland Island, Great Belt, south entrance, sank at once, few saved (N.A. Copenhagen 1650/25).

Enemy Air Activity.

1055 AURORA shadowed by two flying boats.
1140-1351 AURORA attacked by seven machines. No bombs hit, no casualties.

1245 INGLEFIELD attacked by three machines about 100 miles E. of Scapa, 14 bombs, no hits.

1300 DEVONSHIRE reported she was being shadowed by two flying boats in position 80 miles west of Utvoer Lt. COLOMBO was also shadowed about this time by a/c's.
The usual enemy reconnaissance of Scapa and Sullum Voe took place during the forenoon.

War Diary.

26. 11.39.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING
(Continued)

S/m's. reported	1027	By D/F on 3846 kc's position 53° 40' N., 5° 40' E.
	1416	Reliable D/F fix s/m. 6 miles North of Great Orme's Head. MONTROSE and WALKER ordered to search.
	0800	S/m. 43° 30' N. 11° 30' W. Brest Radio (T.O.R. 0831)
	1047	S/m. sighted 10 miles west of Lundy Is. WALPOLE and MONTROSE hunted (C. in C.W.A. 0952/27)
	1130	S/m. sighted steering W. ½ mile off Brimsness, near Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1530/26).
	1215	S/m. sighted 2 miles astern of F.N.41. (C. in C. Rosyth 1234/26).
	2300	S/m. ~~sighted~~ reported d off Malmö (Sound) course S. (IC.0235/39).
S/m's. attacked	1449	WALPOLE attacked good contact in Bristol Channel 51° 8' N. 4° 50' W. No apparent result.

War Diary.

26. 11. 39.
Sunday

U - BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked

PILSUDSKI
Sunk.

0535 Polish SS. PILSUDSKI (14294 tons) one 4" gun aft, mined or torpedoed 17 miles off Humber. Tugs took her in tow but she sank, at 1010/26 (F.O. Humber, 1605/26) 53° 15' N. 0° 30' E.
79 Survivors picked up by VALOROUS and taken Hartlepool, Captain and one boy dead. Still afloat drifing east 0728. Tugs proceeded 0945 and 1330 with Com. Vine, Salvage Officer, on board (F.O. Humber, 1040/26) Two explosions at 10 second intervals. 9 British, 98 Polish crew (8 injured) landed Hartlepool, 5 British, 68 Polish landed Grimsby. Captain died, everyone else saved (Interview with 2nd Officer).

LOCH LOMOND
escaped

1047 SS. LOCH LOMOND (5452 tons) was attacked and engaged U-boat 10 miles west of Lundy Island. (C. in C. W.A., 1105/26) Escaped.
WALPOLE and MONTROSE hunted (C. in C. W.A. 0952/27)

SPAARNDAM
sunk

0910 SS. SPAARNDAM (8857 tons Dutch, Holland-Amerika Line) was mined 2 miles N.E. of Tongue Lt. V. At 2215/26 she was reported in flames drifting N.E. The crew were taken off by the Dover pilot boat soon after she was hit, 1 female passenger and 4 men lost. At 1316/27 she was still afloat (N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1316/27, 1324/27) (Wick Radio 0247/26, N. Foreland Radio 0915/27) on fire 28/11. Suggestion of sabotage. Inquiry whether sabotage is possible. Ship is anchored approx. 2 miles N.E. Tongue (C. in C. Nore to CURLEW 1050/28). Plotted position where sunk 019° Tongue 2.93 miles (PELICAN 1230/28) Only one explosion (Report of Interview with Captain of SPAARNDAM) Ship is in 8 fathoms afloat. Tugs say they can do nothing at present (F. O. i/c London 1800/30).

GUSTAF E REUTER
mined

0100 Swedish oil tanker GUSTAF E REUTER (6336 tons) was mined in Fair Island Channel 14 miles WNW of Fair Isle. Was taken in tow but broke in two, fore part sank but after part is being towed into Lerwick. (F.O.C.O.S. 1455/26) U-boat is probably outward bound. May be N.W. of Ireland today and reach Western Approaches 29/11 (DNI 1229/27) As salvage was too difficult after part was sunk by gunfire 2012/28. 14 survivors saved (ACOS 2012/28)

War Diary. 26.11.1939,
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force "K". Whilst on East Indies Station, Force K to comply with any instructions received from C. in C., East Indies. (D.C.D.(F), 1254/26).

War Diary.

26. 11. 39.
Sunday.

FORREIGN STATIONS.

America & W. Indies

QUITO — Reported off Cape Blanco, Perù 0700/26, steering south inside 3 mile limit and flying Norwegian flag (C. in C.AWI. 1940/26)

North Atlantic

Enemy Base — German s/ms. believed to be refuelled and stored from ZARAUZ, near Bilbao, actual operation is performed neighbouring small bays. (N.C.S.O., Bordeaux 1629/26).

China

LINDENFELS)
MONI RICKMERS) — Unconfirmed report 26/11 that these 3 ships at Sabang, Sumatra, have steam up.
WASGENWALD) WASGENWALD has about 650 tons of coal on board.

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE — Expected to sail from Rio Grande Do Sul night 26/27 or 27/28 Nov. (SO(I) Monte Video 1115/26).

s/m report — 0800 French authorities state submarine sighted at KRIBI. Nationality unknown. (SO(I) Freetown 1609/26).

Defence of Freetown — Suggestions for minefields and indicator loops (C. in C.S.A. 2001/26).

East Indies.

Reported D4 that 2 German merchant ships left Tambrizim (11° 34' S. 40° 39' E.) between about 17/11 and 22/11 escorted by German pocket battleships for N.E.I. (C. in C. E.I. 0459 Z/26)

Re. offer of help from South African bombers ("I am not at all clear they are competent to distinguish friends from enemies." (C. in C.E.I. 1514 Z/26).

War Diary.

26. 11. 39.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Defence of Plymouth and Falmouth. Increase in A.A. defences at Plymouth and provision of A.A. armament at Falmouth is considered essential in order to prevent mines being dropped from a/cs. in approaches to these ports. Proposals being prepared (C. in C. W.A. 0941/26). Cf. 21/11. Decision to make Falmouth a C. C. Base.

French positions Positions of French Forces 1200/26 (D.C. 0300/26).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	S.W. strong to gale	Moderate
Horns Reef	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Channel	W.S.W. gale	Poor
W. Approaches	W. strong to gale	Moderate
Out look	Stormy and unsettled. An intense depression is centred S. of Iceland.	

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

Unconfirmed not very reliable report places 2 B.C's. and 4 Cruisers at Kiel 20/11 (D.N.I. 1136/26).

GERRIT FRITZEN (4128 tons) is reported in Press to have been stranded and abandoned by crew off Dutch coast 26/11.

LIPPE Passed Haugesund, South bound, in cargo 1600/26.

HOOP Apparently assumed name, left Haugesund in cargo, Southbound 1545/26.

Falsterbo minefield German minefield off Falsterbo now extended to Swedish 3 mile limit. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1330/26).

War Diary.

26. 11. 39.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS (CONTINIED)

A.A. cruisers to be employed. As temporary measure, A.A. ships to be withdrawn from duty of givingcover to convoys and employed to give A.A. defence against minelaying aircraft in Thames estuary. CAIRO and CALCUTTA to sail soon as possble to Nore. WOOLSTON to rejoin Rosyth Escort Force on arrival of first of these ships. (D.O.D.(H) 1215/26)

A/S vessels In view of small number of A/S destroyers now available at Harwich and necessity for keeping exits to Knock Deep and Edinburgh Channel strongly guarded by A/S trawlers it is suggested that the fast shallow draft whaler A/S vessels now at Portland be used. (C.in C. Nore. 2341/26). None available.

Balloon Barrage Balloon barrage of 50 balloons flown from lighters, to be provided to prevent enemy minelaying by aircraft in Thames Estuary. Details of barrage. (D. of L.D. 2012/26) Accommodation ship for lighter crews GOLDEN EAGLE will sail in tow from Port of London 0800/29 for Sheerness arriving 30/11 (D. of L.D. 1838/28, 2231/28).

Sound mining Danish Ministry of Marine states Germans are definitely extending South Sound minefield up to 3 miles of Swedish coast at Falsterbo (N.A. Copenhagen 1630/26)

s/m. positions Positions of our s/ms. 0700/26 (D.G. 1859/25, 0012/26).

Rosyth defence Approved for one line of boom. Re. second line, no trawlers available for gate duty (T.M.Depot 1039/26).

Convoys. In future north and south bound convoys will be run daily from Tyne to Southend. All ships to ports north of Tyne will enter Tyne and be at Rosyth independentl the following night. (Capt. (D) Rosyth 1814/26). To commence 27/11 from Tyne and 28/11 from Southend. It is the Admiralty intention to run Methil-Tyne ships without any escort (C. in C. Rosyth 1015/25) Only two ships sailed on the first south bound convoy (C. in C. Rosyth 1158/28). Re escorts (C. in C. Nore 1233/28)

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

The Home Fleet is continuing the search for the German warships which sank the RAWALPINDI.
The destroyers and cruisers are being refuelled in turn at Scapa or Sullum Voe.
NORFOLK has arrived at Scapa to fuel and GLASGOW is already there waiting for the weather to moderate sufficiently for her to fuel.

Air reconnaissance

Owing to weather conditions little air reconnaissance was possible on 26/11, but extensive air searches were arranged for 27/11. Bomber Command carried out 1 air reconnaissance over Borkum.

Casualties

TRIAD

At 0515/26 TRIAD on patrol off Jaederens Pt. (50 miles N.W. of Lister Light) informed C. in C. H.F. that she was out of action and required escort and tow; position 5 miles S.W. of Frister Light. Coastal Command arranged air protection. There is probably a westerly gale blowing in this position.

GRIFFIN, P.C.74

GRIFFIN was holed on starboard bow. Docked. P.C. 74 was damaged whilst alongside during the gale at Ardrossan. Requires docking. One a/c from ARGUS crashed. Sub. Lieut. A. R. Pite killed.

POLYKTOR

S.S. POLYKTOR (Greek 4077 tons) under British charter reported helpless owing to rudder being disabled 400 miles West of Scotland. Effecting temporary repairs. (Polyktor 0914/26). Valentia Radio 1946/26. Lands End Radio 1130/26. 56° 20' N. 18° 36' W. 1129/26. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1206/26).

OSWALDIAN

British trawler OSWALDIAN steering gear broken 1440 one mile North Stroma; terrible sea running (OSWALDIAN 1442/26).

Northern Patrol

Armed Guards for A.M.C.'s CORFU, QUEEN OF BERMUDAS, etc. (V.A.N.P. 2206/26)

Enemy Mining

Relieved U-boat minelayers make passage from Germany by night and lie on bottom off East coast during daylight next day prior to minelaying after dark. Most likely areas

Likely areas

to lie on bottom :- Area L. 51° 20' N. 51° 40' N. 01° 45' E. 2° 0' E. Area M. 52° 0' N. 52° 40' N. 1° 53' E. 2° 5' E. Area N. 53° 30' N. 53° 50' N. 0° 30' E. 1° 0' E. When ships are available A/S searches of these areas should be carried out. (D. A/S.W. 2015/26) Consider most likely area is vicinity of outer Dowsing which is lit and provides a good departure (F.O.Humber 1200/2

A. A.
cruisers
to be employed/

War Diary.

27.11.1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Forces H and K to establish a patrol to southward of Cape as arranged by C. in C., South Atlantic, with object of preventing the passage of enemy ships between Indian Ocean and South Atlantic. Force H to refuel before joining patrol. Force K to remain on patrol as long as endurance permits and then to refuel at Capetown or Simonstown. (D.O.D.(F), 2203/27). If circumstances permit, desired to rest Force K for four days after refuelling. (D.O.D. (F), 2216/27).

East Indies.

Plans. Operational orders and appreciations re attacks on Massawa and Assab.
(C. in C., E.I., 1341Z/27).

Mediterranean.

Adriatic. Proposed patrol. (see 20/11).

War Diary. 27.11.39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

LORIGA 1020 false alarm. S.S.LORIGA (Br.6665 tons) chased by S/M 47°12'N 25°8'W (Devil's Point 1031/27) Valentia Radio 1051/27 gives time 1020. Cancel. Not a S/M (LORIGA 1154/27).

S/M's reported. Unconfirmed report of U-boat 59°9'N 3°22'W, conning tower awash for 3 minutes. Submerged 2329. Course S. H.M.D. HARMATTAN patrolling harbour entrance.

0580 Trawler sighted S/M, course W, 3 miles S.W. of Bolt Head (50°5'N 3°50'W) (C-in-C W.A.1633/27).

0320 Periscope sighted proceeding 090°, 3 miles off Ketteness Point, Whitby. (F.O. Humber 0330/27).

0729 D.F. bearings of unknown enemy unit 120/2 from Sumburgh Head (D.N.I., 0840/27).

0103 D.F. bearings of unknown enemy unit 55°48'N., 6°25'E (D.N.I., 0133/27).

S/M Supplies. Private Sec. to Civil Governor, Cadiz, reports 3 U-boats operating in vicinity of Cape Spartel being supplied from Spanish source, no date mentioned. Four direct telegram lines La Linea to Cadiz via Tarifa recently installed. Object rapid communication of shipping movements. (SO(1) Gib., 1618/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

South Atlantic.

French movements. CASSARD (Cr.) arrived (SO(1) Freetown 0850/27).

TACOMA — Expected alongside 28/11 for oil and water. (SO(1) Montevideo 2330/27).

BAHIA BLANCA — Almost completed loading at Rio de Janeiro (do).

SANTOS — Now in dry dock at Rio de Janeiro. Other German ships unlikely to sail at present (do)

RIO GRANDE — Expected to sail night 26/27 Nov. A.3. (SO(1) Freetown 1150/27).

S/M reported — C.3 Fisherman reports S/M sighted 1249/27 3 miles S. Porta Do Boi 23° 57' S 45°13'W. Saw it submerge (ANA Rio de Janeiro 1529/30).

War Diary.

27. 11. 1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop 66nvoy.

My 1432/23. Following are proposals for movement first and second brigade groups Canadian Division. First sailing, Halifax, 10/12, (5 ships, named); second sailing, Halifax, 21/12, (7 ships, named). Total capacity, first, 8139; second, 8481. (D. of S.T., 2317/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Suspected that Italian Station Mogadishu is signalling to enemy warships. (N.O.I/C Simonstown 0946/27).

Unconfirmed report that a warship was seen playing its searchlight on the entrance to Port Amelia, near Point Mauhane 13°40'2E (Northern end of Mozambique Channel) at 0400/27. Position given as 12°58'S., 40°36'E., by S.N.O. Simonstown 2351/27. OLYMPUS and GLOUCESTER were sent to patrol (GLOUCESTER 0711½/28).

French movements. BOUGAINVILLE (Sloop) and L'ESPOIR (S/M) arrived Suez from South (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 0949/27).

China.

S/M'S C-in-C China was asked to keep close watch on possibility of German or German-owned Russian S/M's operating in China seas (Capt. Bell 2116/27).

LOWESTOFT Intend to retain LOWESTOFT at Singapore, requiring extra complement and after necessary working up to sail her to Gibraltar with despatches (C-in-C China 0202½/27).

North Atlantic.

QUITO Still in port (C-in-C W.A. 0931/27).

French movements. AIGLE (Cr.) arrived Gibraltar 1130/27 (So(1) Gib. 1150/27) left for Oran 1730 (So(1) Gib. 1818/27).

U-boats off C. Spartel. Three U-boats reported operating near Cape Spartel being supplied from Spanish source C.3. Four direct telegraph lines La Linea to Cadiz via Tarifa recently installed for rapid communication of shipping movements. (SO (1) Gib.1618/27).

America and West Indies.

French movements. LORRAINE (Battleship), MARSEILLAISE, JEAN DE VIENNE (cruiser) arrived 0730 (Capt. I/C. Burmuda 1732/27).

BOGOTA) QUITO) Unconfirmed Guaqaquil press report that both ships at Quaqaquil preparing to transfer to Chilian flag to carry fruit coastwise from Ecuador to Peru

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

Japanese Protest. Official protest by Japanese Government against embargo on German exports. (F.D. 810/30 to Sir R. Graigie).

Mines. Ship reports 2055 saw two lights fall from sky into sea close by large column of water (Humber Radio TH1L2125/27 ? Mines.
Three floating mines reported 10 miles N.E. Pendean Pt. 0130.

S/M Positions. British S/M positions 0700/27 and movements for following 24 hours. (Adty. D.C.1934/26).

WEATHER

0400	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea	W. strong to gale.	Moderate
Horns Reef	W.S.W. Strong.	Moderate
Channel	W.Strong to gale.	Moderate
W.Approaches	W. Gale	Moderate
Outlook.	Westerly gale.	

Enemy Intelligence.

0214 D/F bearings of unidentified enemy unit were received but did not produce a fix. The general inference was that the unit was East of Shetlands. Bearings were passed to C-in-C H.F.

Trawler sunk. N.A. Copenhagen reports that he was informed by Ministry of Marine that a German armed trawler, about 400 tons, was blown up 0900/27 in exactly the same spot as the 700 ton German patrol vessel on 25/11. (South Entrance of Great Belt). (N.A. Copenhagen 1135/27).

URANUS Sailed (Oslo 1521/27).

MEDEA)
KEPLER) Arrived(do).

PATAGONIA Now appears from intercepted telegram that she arrived Hamburg 23/11. Had probably been refueling at Murmansk (I.C. 0283/39).

War Diary.

27.11.39
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet. The Home Fleet continued the search for the German warships which sank the RAWALPINDI. FURIOUS and REPULSE sail 0430/27. Defect to FURIOUS'S turbines made good. (FURIOUS 1756/26).

Air Reconnaissance. Owing to the weather conditions little reconnaissanc was possible on 27/11.

TRIAD. In view of TRIAD's breakdown 240° Feisten Light 5 miles, C-in-C H.F. ordered:-
(a) Two destroyers to make contact at dusk 27/11 and take her in tow, (b) one S/M to assist and escort. And A.O.C. Coastal Command ordered:-
(a) One reconnaissance a/c to locate them at dawn 28/11 and report their position.
(b) Three Hudsons to provide cover and fighters to stand by.

TRIUMPH TRIUMPH, ordered to escort TRIAD home, failed to make contact and has therefore been ordered to take over the patrol. Position 240° Feisten Light 6 miles at 1215, a/c report (C-in-C Rosyth 1536/27).

Casualties. ASHANTI on patrol in Fair Isle Channel, speed reduced to 25 knots by leak in reserve fuel tank.
VIVACIOUS in Western Approaches has developed urgent engine room defects and is returning to Plymouth.
S.S. FYLING DALE about 10 miles S.E. of S. Foreland Lt. Ho. Unmanageable drifting to leeward; do not require assistance yet. (N. Foreland Radio 1120/27)
S.S. ANTEN grounded outside Dover. Tug required (N. Foreland Radio 2206/27).

KONSUL HENDRIK FISSER Arrived at Imperial Docks at Leith 1430 (N.O.I/C Leith 1655/27)(Captured by CALYPSO 23/11).

Port of London Port of London is not closed. In and out traffic is being maintained during daylight hours. (D.N.I. 1435/27

Nether button. In action (P.O.C.O.S. 1129/27).

Unknown cruiser Cromer reports one cruiser unknown 060° Cromer 5 miles 110° at 1880 (FO I/C Harwich 0805/27).

Japanese liners. It is reported that in consequence of German mine-laying at the mouth of the Thames ships of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line will in future call at Liverpool instead of London.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Contd.)

S/ms. reported (Contd.)

1600 S/m. circled Norwegian SS. BJERKA approx. 60° 10' N. 2° 10' E. (I.C.0286/39).

? time Trawler PRINCESS ROYAL sighted U-boat course N.W. off Papa Westray (I.C. 0286/39)

North Atlantic.

0814 French report from Casablanca s/m 35° 52' N. 6° 48' W. (I.C. 0283/39).

1157 S/m. reported by aircraft in 59° 04' N. 03° 30' W. KANDAHAR and 2 A/S trawlers proceeding to hunt, aircraft from Hatston co-operating (F.O.C.O.S. 1157/28).

S/m. seen from Norwegian BJERKA halfway between Shetland and Norway north of latitude 60° at dusk. Appeared on port beam, came round stern, left to northward (C. in C. Rosyth 1331/1).

S/ms. attacked

Two d/c's. dropped over obstruction today. Considerable oil (F.O.I.C. Clyde. a105/28) Cf. 22/11.

0430 LEDA dropped 2 d/cs. on suspected s/m. 2/1 ZKAA 12. Send 2 A/S destroyers to hunt (C. in C. Nore to F.O.i/c Harwich. 1430/28). (Position is off Harwich (No result) 51° 49' N. 1° 50' E. (I.C.0283/39).

1907 GLOWWORM attacking believed s/m contact 202° ZK AA 28 (GLOWWORM 1907/28). Non sub. (GLOWWORM 2013/28).

War Diary

28. 11. 39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

Ships attacked

1240 Ship in distress after loud explosion 6 miles N. of Alnwick (C. in C. Rosyth 1321/28) Report now considered incorrect (C. in C. Rosyth 1627/28).

RUBISLAW 1910 S.S. RUBISLAW (1041 tons) in ballast sunk by mine 1-1½ miles E.N.E. Tongue Lt. V. 4 injured rescued by trawler, 13 missing. (GLOWWORM 2144/28, 2219/28, N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1955/28, 1618/28. Channel pilot and Master of Norwegian SS. BOLLISTER coming up Knock Deep who saw explosion at a distance; also observed small vessel looking like a sailing yacht, thought to be a disguised submarine. (N.O.i/c London 1625/29)

NORFOLK 1340 Was missed by torpedo 60° 30' N. 1° 20' E.

S/ms. reported

0530 Conning tower sighted by fishing boat 4 miles S.S.E. of Arbroath, course S.E. A/C sent to locate and attack (C. in C. Rosyth 0721/28) A/C to locate and attack (Donibristle 0725/28) Area examined by M/S trawler, and nothing located (C. in C. Rosyth 1827/29).

0340 Enemy s/m. 54° 30' N. 13° 30' W. (Brest 0715/28).

1421 S/m. suspected in position KCSV 4950. S/m TRIBUNE and 1 DR. LEDA in vicinity (Chatham A.C.& H.Q. 1421/28) See s/m's attacked.

1528 A/c's report s/ms. near convoy FN.43. at position 51° 49' N. 1° 49' E. May have laid mines in QZ 127 Channel. Channel is to be swept from positions Y southwards and X westwards commencing at daylight (C. in C. Nore. 1834 /28). Report now considered unreliable, but since s/m was reported by LEDA sweep is being carried out as ordered (C. in C. Nore 1926/28) (See s/ms. attacked 1430).

1419 By D/F approx. position of enemy unit, probably s/m, 61° N. 1° 50' E. (DNI. 1837/28, FOCOS 2035/28, to NEWCASTLE, AFRIDI, GURKHA, ISIS).

1200 SS. MARCHIONESS saw s/m. 4 to 5 miles away steering N.E. 15 miles N.W. Bardsey I. (I.C. 0284/39).

0130 SS. DUNVEGAN HEAD sighted s/m on surface, course S.S.E., in 53° 17' N. 1° 11' E. (N. of Cromer) (I.C.0284/39) (C. in C. Rosyth 1821/29).

a.m. Two large U-boats reported 58° 2' N. 6° 3' E. course Northerly (I.C. 0285/39).

War Diary. 28.11.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Convoys. Understood troop convoys will sail from Sydney on 2/1/1940 and at beginning of March. Admiralty offer capital ship escort Sydney to Aden and propose HMS RAMILLIES. Cruiser proposals, etc. (D.C.N.S., 0053/28, 0101/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

(North Atlantic)

ARUCAS R. DE JANEIRO KARNAK	Consul, Vigo, reported 28/11 these ships believed likely to sail soon. KARNAK reported to have received two small guns in September in cases and foremast loosened 27/11. 10 U.S.S.R. flags are reported to have been ordered locally.

East Indies

French positions	Arrivals and Departures Port Said (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1702/25)
Bunkers	Re Italian merchant ships bunkering. Italians trying to conserve stocks at expense of British. Admiralty policy (C. in C.E.I. 1258Z/28).

Mediterranean

S/m off Dardanelles	Press report of unknown s/m off Bozcaada near Dardanelles.
SALZBURG	Loading 600 tons cotton prints at Constanza 28/11 from Germany for Iran via Batum.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

All vessels of 15 knots and over are to be sailed independently (D.T.D. 1119/28).

? ADMIRAL SCHEER — Master of Greek S.S. MARIONGA D. THERMIOTIS reported 28/11 sighting ship of DEUTSCHLAND class 19/11 31 degrees 48 minutes N. 41 degrees 15 minutes W. steaming N.E. slow speed. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2120/28).
Reported that American Army Pilot observed German ship off Cocos Island 28/11, possibly SCHEER. C.2. (S.O.(I) Kallao 0035/30).

South Atlantic.

It is under consideration to ask the South African Government to undertake deep daily air reconnaissance to southward of the Cape in order to locate any raider that may try to pass through the area. Information is required as to what air reconnaissance is at present in operation, what further A/C's. exist in South Africa which could be made available for this reconnaissance, and what degree of training the South African Air Force has on work over the sea. (Head of M. 1031/28). The reply is given in N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2329/29.

China.

BASES FOR RAIDERS. — Asking for information re. possible fuelling bases for raiders in Pacific, areas covered by air reconnaissance, etc. (C.-in-C. China 0807/28 to Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Commonwealth Naval Board.)

HAVENSTEIN. — Confirmed she is at Dairen (Captain on Staff, TERROR 0211 Z/28).

ELBE
REGENSBURG. — Docked at Yokohama 23/11.
Undocked at Yokohama 23/11.

North Atlantic.

Seaplane Sighted. — 0800/28 seaplane nationality unknown was sighted off Cabo Santa Maria Algarve ? close inshore A.1. (Lisbon 1645/28).
Orders given (by Spanish authorities) to stop all shifting of anchorage by German ships, except with official permission (N.A. Madrid 2039/38).

s/m. supplies — Local opinion thinks that (Spanish) destroyers may be facilitating supplies (to German s/m's) C-C. San Sebastian 1750/28) improbable (Madrid 1241/1). Admiral Antilles states that Washington reports Panamanian tanker MYRIAM possibly supply ship for enemy ships, obtaining clearance from Corpus Christi, 28/11, for Curacao (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1114/2).

HOME COMMANDS (contd.)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	W. Stong in South Gale in North.	V.G. except in rain.
Horns Reef	W. Moderate to fresh.	V.G. except in rain.
Channel	W. Moderate to fresh.	V.G.
W. Approaches	N.W. Moderate	V.G.
Outlook	Similar conditions	

Enemy Intelligence

German Minefield	Off Falsterbo the 3 miles left to Sweden are reported dangerous from drifting mines.
Vessel mined	Press messages report a second German vessel (? No.301) mined south of Great Belt. (? same as 27/11)
TRITON	Sailed (Oslo 1303/28)
HERCULES OBERHAUSEN	Arrived, lying fully loaded in stream. OBERHAUSEN discharging potash (N.C.S.O.Gothenburg 1217/28)
	Re. position where ships have to go outside Norwegian territorial waters (Jaederen) (Haugesund 1242/28)
s/m's supplies	Large German steam trawlers are suspected of carrying fuel for supplying to U-boats. (F.O.C.N.P. 1635/28)
LIVADIA	Called and sailed southward p.m. 28/11 (Tromsoe 1955/28)
BAHIA LAURA	Left Haugesund southward bound 1550/28 (V.C. Haugesund 1635/28)
AACHEN AJAX	AACHEN and AJAX both in cargo passed Haugesund southward. Soviet icebreaker believed to have gone with them (V.C. Haugesund 1635/28)
Economic warfare	In October only £40,000 worth of goods entered U.S.A. from Germany. (W.C.B.X. (U.S.A.) broadcast 13/28)
JANTJE FRITZEN	Stranded on Scharhorn Reef (between Weser and Elbe) 28/11. Sternpost broken. Made P /L message 2145 "Things look pretty bad" She was reported refloated and proceedingto Cuxhaven 0240/1.

HOME COMMANDS (contd.)

s/m anchorage	Reliable report U-boat using Scullane Bay, 51° 30'N, 9° 12'W by night. VANESSA to proceed forthwith and approach bay from Westward with object of catching U-boat leaving 29/11 (C-in-C W.A. 1808/28)
Convoys	Re. escorts for East Coast convoys(C-in-C Rosyth 1711/28)
R/T toShetlands	Will be out of action for about a week (Greenwich 1541/28)
German mining	A three mile radius from S.W. Colbart Lt. V. has been declared dangerous on report by French of a/c activity. A 2-mile radius from 55° 50'N 1° 20'W is considered dangerous on report of a trawler seeing three German seaplanes laying mines (believed four from each) at 1130/25 Nov. Four drifters to be held in readiness for anti-mine experiments (D.M.S. 1158/28)
CYRIL	Danish S.S. CYRIL (2116 tons) with cargo of British coal consigned to Stockholm Electricity Works was seized by the Germans and taken to Swinemunde as reprisal for British control of German exports.
Blockade	Order in Council issued authorising control of exports from Germany (signed by King 27/11). Not to come into force before 4/12 in Home Waters or 18/12 in Mediterranean. Procedure to be adopted (Hd. of M. 2356/28) A modified form of control will be put into operation at first, ships boarded will be allowed to proceed if a Navicert is produced or if the manifest shows no goods consigned by a firm in enemy or occupied territory, or if they sailed from an enemy port before 4/12 or 11/12 in Mediterranean. As a temporary measure enemy exports which are overstowed so that discharge w uld involve considerable expense and delay will be passed. Certain enemy goods will be exempt, including mails, Speeding up of control in the C.C. stations will be effected by allowing decisions as to release or detentions of cargoes to be made on the spot;
s/m's positions	Positions of s/m's 0700/28 (D.C.1920/27)
French movements	Positions of French ships 1200 28/11 (D.C. 0149/28)

War Diary. 28.11.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — As 27/11.

NORFOLK attacked. — A D/F bearing of an enemy unit was obtained at 1419, position 61 degrees N. 1 degree 50 minutes E. (80 miles West of Utvoer Light). (C.in C. H.F. 1633/28).

1348 explosions occurred near the NORFOLK which she attributed to bombs from aircraft. (NORFOLK 1951/28).

It is suggested they were enemy torpedoes fired from a S/M, which exploded prematurely, since the Germans claimed to have sunk a cruiser of the LONDON class. (Admty. 1749/28, C.S.I. 1836/28, NORFOLK 2014/28).

Air Reconnaissances — The continued bad weather has limited air activity on both sides, and few reconnaissances were carried out.,

Attack on BORKUM. — 12 Blenheims attacked BORKUM at 1530 and machine gunned 5 seaplanes seen on the slipway of the seaplane base and the shore A/A guns and ships which opened fire on them. All aircraft returned safely.

A/C's. for N.P. cruisers. — It is understood that NEWCASTLE had no A/C on board on 23/11. It is possible that an A/C might have been able to shadow DEUTSCHLAND. C.in C. H.F. was asked for his remarks as to a revision of policy as to embarkation of A/C's in cruisers in Northern waters. (D.N.A.D. 1533/28) cancel this signal (1st S.L. 1753/28).

Defence of Nore by A/A Cruisers. — Three A/A cruisers being used. Proposals for their positions and that refugee ships should be berthed and operated from Portsmouth instead of Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 1047/28).

Casualties

TRIAD — INGLEFIELD, MAORI, TRIAD in position 235 degrees Feisten Light, 12 miles. Tow parted. (Captain (D) 3, 0624/28) A/C's leaving to make contact and patrol to southward (C.in C. Rosyth 0822/28). The tug BANDIT sailed 0020/29 to assist and TRIAD was informed that she had discretion to enter Norwegian waters if necessary.

FORTUNE — At Scapa has sustained damage due to weather, rendering her unseaworthy.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Contd.)

mine clearance operations on 28/11 a mine was dragged to this position. At 0953 an explosion occurred when A/S boat No. 2 was 200 yards from target; explosion probably due to mine. 1122/30 oil was reported.

U-boat sunk

1330 U-boat sunk by KINGSTON 60° 53' N. 2° 49' E. approx. Four officers 39 men saved (D.C. 0802/30)

2210 ALOUETTE dropped 1 d/c on good contact 54° N. 1° 14' W., large quantities of oil. Position patrolled for 3 hours and visited at daylight. Believed object was wreck. If enemy s/m it has been destroyed (C. in C. Rosyth 1308/30)

2010 JUPITER and JAGUAR fired 2 patterns 53° 5' N. 1° 33' E. Contact lost (JUPITER 1112/30).

0750 BDV BARBARIAN obtained good contact in Firth of Clyde. ½ hour later HAZARD fouled obstruction in swept channel. Channel swept twice more during the day, but no obstruction was encountered.

0400 Unknown s/m 2½ miles N.E. Fogo Island, Cape Verde, steering S.E. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1013/2).

War Diary

29.11.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

and MINING

Ships attacked

IONIAN

Sunk.

0130 IONIAN (3114 tons) mined 132° Newarp Lt.V. 1.5 miles ICARUS attacking s/m in 61° N. 2° E. All crew saved uninjured. (HASTINGS 0130/29) Abandoned making water in 3 holds and engine room. Anchor and cable jammed. Am Rejoining convoy (HASTINGS 0245/29).

s/ms reported

0400 By Portuguese authorities 2½ miles N.E. of Ilha off coast of Fogo (Cape Verde) steering S.E. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1540/1).

1416 By D/F unknown enemy unit 55° 24' N. 3° 30' E. unreliable (D.N.I.1432/39).

1249 By D/F bearing of unknown enemy unit 212.5/1 from Cupar. May be reciprocal (DNI.1326/29)

0327 By D/F unknown enemy unit 60° N. 3° W. Unreliable fix. Probably U-boat. (DNI.1012/29).

1615 By D.F. Kirkwall P.L.O. true bearing 320°)*
1620 " " " " " " 322°)*

* H.M.S. GREENWICH 1623/29.

1000 From shore 55° 43' N. 5° 10' W. (Clyde area) off Cock of Arran steering S.E. ECLIPSE to hunt (I.C. 0284/39) (F.O.I.C. Clyde 1221/29. C.in C. W.A. 1207/29).

2215 Seen by A/S yacht PRINCESS 7 miles N.E. Bull Pt. (Bristol Channel) (IC.0284/39). Latest report Bull Point 7 miles bearing 60° at 2300. All patrol vessels ordered to attack. N.O.I.C. Swansea 2320/29.

0900 In Bally cotton Bay, 51° 50' N. 8° W. (South Ireland) Destroyer will search (IC0284/39) VANESSA to investigate at dawn 30th. (C. in C.,W.A. 1734/29)

0730 Reported by trawler 56° 43'N. 2°9' W. (11 miles off Montrose). Surfaced and dived, course S.W. (IC.0284/39). A/c from Dyce searching (C.in C. Rosyth 1228/29)

2300 Small U-boat reported proceeding southward in the Sound (IC 0286/39) Preceded by small motor torpedo boat (N.A. Copenhagen 1235/1).

1330 Two U-boats reported vicinity of 60° 53' N. 2° 49' E. (DNI. 1637/29)

0530 See "Suspicious vessel" 30/11.

2049 By D/F unkncwn enemy unit 60°/2 from Shetland (DNI. 2237/29)

Spanish destroyer ULLOA and other ships on patrol of North Coast owing rumoured presence of German s/m. (Santander 1600/30.

Aberdeen trawler PRINCESS ROYAL reported sighting ~~the~~ U-boat close to stranded German ship BORKUM in Papa Sound apparently inspecting. Heading N.W. and proceeding out to sea when last seen (V.A.M.P. 2323/1) (C. in C. Rosyth 1147/4.

Attacks on s/ms.

0745 ICARUS attacking s/m 258 KMAA7 (ICARUS 0745/29).

0923) Two A/S motor boats dropped several d/cs.
1953) on s/m in Firth of Clyde. Result unknown (IC 0284/39). It is now known that during

mine/

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

East Indies

Reported German ships at Massawa were coaling 11/11. Two German ships discharging into two Italian ships 25/11 S.O.(I) Colombo 0901Z/29).

ODER — German SS ODER reported to be doing service under Italian flag for Italian Colonial Company between ports in Italian East Africa (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1746/29).

GLOUCESTER — To continue to patrol West of Cormoro until 1200 1/12 then cruise to the South Negritos, Portuguese E. Africa coast as far as Beira, then return to northward. Circumstances permitting, avoid showing yourself where you may be reported (C. in C. E.I. 1544 Z/29)
British SS. ERICA reports cruiser 1800/25 in 24° 38' S. 38° 41' E., did not challenge cannot furnish detailed description (N.O. i/c. Simonstown 1203/29).

North Atlantic

ARUCAS
KARNAK
LECH
RIDE JANEIRO — Reliably reported these four ships sailing from Vigo night 29/30 Nov. First two reported armed (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1440/29) French later reported they did not sail (D.N.I. 1800/30)

French movements — French destroyer LARAILLEUSE passed Gibraltar E. to W. 0700 (S.O.(I) Gib. 0946/29).
TIGRE and PANTHERE arrived Brest (Admiral West 1800/29).

SPICA
Leakage at Madeira. — reported to be loaded with pyrites at Ayamonti, Spain A.c. (Casablanca THI 1615/29). Our ambassador (Sir W. Selby) moving in the matter (F.O.Tel 263/29).

China

ELBE — At Yokohama undocked 29/11.

LINDENFELS
MONI RICKMERS
SOPHIE RICKMERS
WASGENWALD
WERDENFELS — At Sabang. Reported 29/11 Keeping steam.

Mediterranean

GALILIA — Sailed from Palermo 1300/29 for unknown destination (S.O.(I) Malta 1747/30).

WAR DIARY 29.11.39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Dispositions. (Re Adty 1840/24).

Force I to Madagascar area, operating from Diego Suarez or Madagascar.

Force M to area between Maldive Is. and Achin Head, operating from Ceylon.

Force J Socotra Area.

GLOUCESTER will probably be withdrawn from Diego Suarez area to Bay of Bengal after Force I arrives in Madagascar area.

HOBART Bombay area.

ODIN or OTUS Chagos group

A.M.C. on escort duty.

Persian Gulf and Perim Patrol unchanged (C.in C. E.I. 1401/29/11/39).

War Diary

29. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

SCHWABENLAND — Unconfirmed report from good source that SCHWABENLAND (Aircraft catapult ship) is armed and was in South Atlantic 4/11 (D.N.I.1224/29).

Brazilian comment on appearance of cruiser of AJAX class close inshore Rio Grande do Sul 26/11 and 26/10 (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1115/28, Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D., A & W.I. 1642/29)
Brazilian C.N.S. acknowledges our right but would like operations conducted more unostentatiously or further off shore in daytime. C.N.S. strongly pro-British in a Government of doubtful sympathies (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1616/30).

Falklands defence — Buenos Aires Volunteer contingent to be released. All guns can be manned without their assistance and adequate mobile force is available. It is now unlikely any considerable number of German reservists could embark in S. America without our knowing it. (Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D., A. & W.I. 1906/29).

s/m reported — 0400. s/m reported 2½ miles N.E. Fogo, Cape Verde Is., steering S.E. (I.C.0286/39).

SAO PAULO — Fire extinguished, ship continues loading cotton, expected to sail for Parahiba shortly (S.O.(1) Montevideo 2340/39)

BAHIA BLANCA - has completed loading at Rio de Janeiro, now bunkering preparatory to sailing, Hull grey funnel blacks (do).

TACOMA
LAHN — has ordered pilot for 1000/30 to move to Antarctic port; she has taken water and provisions. Permit for bunkers for both TACOMA and LAHN temporarily suspended by Administration. (S.O.(I) Montvideo 2340/29)

LA CORUÑA — has entered dry dock (do)

America and West Indies

Cable ship — Re-escort for Cable ship LORD KELVIN required to proceed shortly from Halifax to 41° 52' N. 65° 14' W. and afterwards to 39° 58' N. 67° 27' W. to repair cables (Hd. of M. 1806/28). Escort not necessary. Re provision of cover (C. in C. A.W.I. 183/29). General cover as regards next few days provided by REPULSE, FAME, FURIOUS and search as far as Turks Is. EMERALD and HUNTER this side of their passage (F.O.3 B.S.1537/30). N.C.S.O. Trinidad reports 3 funnel steamer passed Guayaguare 1500/29 at high speed, course south (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2100/29)

HELGOLAND — at Puerto Colombia, Lloyds agent at Baranquilla reported 29/11 fire in bunkers. Believed no serious damage to ship.

War Diary. 29. 11. 1939,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SEVERN, detached duty, S. Georgia.

Admiralty 1308/23. Conditions in S. Georgia very exacting for SEVERN. (Details). Consider it desirable she should be met outward Skag Rock and escorted in by whaler. Should leave area by mid-April, by which time all whale oil should have been exported. (Cdre., S.A.D., 2259/28), (received 1343/29).
After discussion with late Captain of SOUTHERN COAST, concur his recommendation that a whaler should come over from S,. Georgia to Falklands to note ice conditions and escort SEVERN over. (Cdre., S.A.D., 1601/30).
Not intended that SEVERN should be based at S. Georgia. 14 to 28 day patrols in the vicinity, returning to Falklands after each patrol. (C. in C., S.A., 1800/1/12).

East Indies.

Troop Convoy Escorts.

Cancel reference to RAMILLIES in my 0744/27 and my 0450/21, para. 2. RAMILLIES not available for escort of ETTRICK from Aden to Bombay or Convoy K.6 from Bombay to Gulf of Aden. Revised arrangements. (C. in C., E.I., 0620Z/29).
Cancel my 0525/29 and my 0620/29. Previous arrangements given in paras. 2 and 3 my 0450/21/11 and my 0907/21/11 to Force J, N.O.I.C. Aden, and F.O.C.R.I.N. only are to stand. (C. in C., E.I., 1144Z/29).

Australia.

Troop Convoy.

Sailing of first contingent unlikely before end of January. Confirmed that fuelling arrangements at Fremantle are suitable for RAMILLIES. (First Naval Member, Melbourne, 1730/29.

War Diary. HOME COMMANDS. 29.11.39, Wednesday.

Situation in Northern Waters.

Admiralty appreciation of position. Fully in agreement with dispositions made during the period that it seemed likely that enemy vessels might attempt to break through, but are on principle against any patrol in U-boat waters being maintained in approximately the same position for any considerable time. Suggest present patrol line be abandoned and a sweep made to northward so far as fuel permits, returning to cover Convoy H N 3. No reason why HOOD and DUNKERQUE should not conform to this. (1st S.L., 0052/29).

U-Boat Sunk by KINGSTON.

U-boat sunk by H.M.S. KINGSTON estimated position 60 53'N., 20° 49' E., survivors in both ships. (KASHMIR, 1330/29). Survivors now state there are two more submarines in vicinity. Further search with KINGSTON till 1000 to-morrow. (KASHMIR, 1430/29). Report name of Captain of U-boat (D.C., 1552/29). Kapitan Leutnant Werner Loks, whole crew 4 officers and 39 m3n. (KINGSTON+, 1826/29).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

In Great and Little Belts (Contd.)	Belts, channels off Danish coast prohibited by Order of Ministry of Commerce, owing to danger from minefields (Press)
Off G. of Riga on Dutch coast	A floating mine is reported off Gulf of Riga. Reports of mines cast up on Dutch coast in large numbers (Press). At Texel a large part of dyke destroyed by exploding mine.
Iron Ore.	Disused iron ore mines have been opened with German capital at Farm and shipments made to Germany. Iron ore is poor quality. (N.A.Oslo 1210/29) (See also Oslo 1210/29). Seven German ships have loaded probably 35,000 tons during past 8 weeks. Daily output 800 tons, all exports to Germany in German bottoms (N.A. Oslo 0935/30).
Routes	Information required re routes down coast for ships of 5,000, 10,000, 15,000 tons. (D.N.I. 1746/29) For reply see N.C.S.O. Bergen 1800/30.
HINDENBURG	7,000 ton ship, probably HINDENBURG, arrived Haugesund 1000/29. (D.N.I. 1552/29). See ENTRERIOS 30/11.
Mines	Reports of floating mines in the Baltic between Bornholm and Sweden (IC 0284/39)
CORDOBA	(Sailed Vigo 11/11) arrived Narvik p.m. 29/11 short of bunkers. Reported to have come round North of Iceland.
STURGEON'S report	STURGEON on patrol 0740/16/11 56° 24' N. 6° 40' E. sighted 6 escort ships 4 miles distant and endeavoured to attack. 1530/20/11 in 54° 32' N. 6° 25' E. fired 2 torpedoes at each of two trawlers. Believed hit but prevented from ascertaining owing to approaching darkness and presence of a/s vessels (R.A.(S) 1517/29).
U-boat	2300 small U-boat reported in the Sound proceeding Southward (I.C.0288/39)

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Convoys — Adty. are convinced that attack on Norwegian convoys is only matter of time. Propose to include a T class s/m in escort as deterrent (D.O.D.(H) 1159/29) Cf. NCSO Bergen 1130/28.
See also 8/12.

French Positions — Positions of French ships 1200/29 (D.C.0413/29) MOGADOR, VOLTA (cruisers) arrived Belfast 1700/29 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0915/30).

d/c attacks — On all occasions when an enemy submarine is attacked by depth charges one ship should whenever practicable remain in the vicinity for at least 24 hours (D.A/S.W.1303/29).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea (Norwegian Coast)	Fresh N.W. or W.	Good. Showers
North Sea ..... (remainder of)	S. or S.W. Mod.	Poor. Rain or drizzle
Horns Reef	W. Strong decreasing	Good. Fine.
Channel	W. or S.W. Strong	Poor. Drizzle
W. Approaches ...	S.S.W. Strong to gale	Poor.

Outlook. Unsettled. S.W. or S. Wind spreading over North Sea. N.W. winds with good visibility in Western Approaches later today.

Enemy Intelligence.

Two German ships, names unknown, sailed night 28/29 Nov. loaded with ore. (Narvik 0951/29)

German ship not known passed 1305 (V. C. Haugesund 1308/29).

W/T. — German W/T procedure is abnormal today. Similar procedure was used on 26/9, 27/9, 29/, 10/10, 25/11 when bombers attacked our ships in North Sea (D.N.I. 1129/29)

ALBION (Br.) — Re tug ALBION under British flag towing cargoes destined for Germany up Danube, owned by British firm (N.A. Bucharest THI 0120/29).

WESTWALD — Armed. Re stopping of 17/11 or thereabouts by Norwegian destroyer near Hitra Island. Her further movements. British destroyer close to her apparently thought she was inside territorial waters (N.A. Oslo 1000/29).

Mines on Swedish coast — Press report that navigation in Swedish west coast waters practically suspended owing to drifting German mines.

In Great and Little Belts — Fishing in certain areas of Great and Little

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

between the Well Bank and Broken Bank after dark. The seaplane remained on the water for at least an hour, showing a white light at intervals and then flew away in an easterly direction.

A German aircraft landed at Trangisvaag in the Faroes at 1205 in a damaged condition (IC.0286/39)

STURGEON — STURGEON on return from patrol reported that at 1315/28 she fired two torpedoes at each of two German a/s trawlers 20 miles N.W. Heligoland. Attacks believed successful but results not seen on account of presence of other A/S craft. See Enemy Intelligence.

Casualties — CARDIFF returned to Sullum Voe having lost her main topmast and part of main mast and ~~left~~ W/T aerial. Naval oiler BIRCHOL (2,400 tons) is aground on Uist (Hebrides) 57°6' N. 7° 15' W. Tug ENGLISHMAN sent to assist. S.O. 4th D.F. to sail to assist when weather permits salvage (C. in C. Rosyth 0157/30). She was a total loss.

Suspicious ship — Bafhburgh (2220) and Holy Island (2240) both report ship behaving suspiciously (C. in C. Rosyth 0012/30).

Enemy mining — A parachute mine fell in a position 53° 25' N. 1° 0' E. at 1900 (IC.0285/39). Later Air Ministry report parachute was from British a/c (IC0286/39).

Norwegian territorial waters — Add to list of places where deep draught ships have to keep outside territorial waters, south of Gjeslingen Lt. Ho. between Lindesnaes Lt. Ho. and Ryvingen Lt. Ho. south point of Norway (N.A. Oslo 1230/39)

WILK — Polish s/m WILK has sailed to carry out her first patrol.

Danish Belt Minefields — Danish belt minefields, 300 mines to be laid in each field. Work has been delayed by weather, is half completed (N.A. Copenhagen 1720/29, D.N.I. 1932/30 to R.A.(S)) See 20/11.

Motor boats — No suitable motor boats available Constanza or on Danube (N.A. Bucharest 0100/39)

Bombing restriction — Requesting a/cs. may be instructed not to bomb submarines during daylight 29/11 within 20 miles of lines drawn:-

(A) 065° for distance of 60 miles from 55°30' N. 0° 30' W.

(B) 1042° for distance of 180 miles from 55° 30' N. 0° 30' W. (R.A.(S) 1746/28).

Shipping — At 2200/29 there were 66 ships remaining in the Downs.

War Diary

29. 11. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

As 28/11. C. in C. Home Fleet and Rear Admiral (D) Home Fleet with destroyers rendezvous at noon. SOUTHAMPTON and SUFFOLK are to cover convoy H.N.3, C. in C. Home Fleet and forces in company will be in support.

Concompletion of the sweep the Northern Patrol is to be re-instituted, and ships will refuel as follows:-

Sullum Voe - Destroyers
Scapa - - - Fleet cruisers
Port A - - - Northern Patrol cruisers.

HOOD and DUNKERQUE have been ordered to conform generally and subsequently to proceed, HOOD to Clyde and DUNKERQUE to Brest.
WARSPITE reached position Q, 20 miles North of Faroes at 0600. She has been ordered to sweep North-eastward until dark from this position and then return West about to Portsmouth.

Appreciation of situation

Admiralty appreciation of situation regarding raiders: (D.O.D.(H)1751/29). Since they remained near Iceland for 24 hours after attack on RAWALPINDI they were homeward and not outward bound, and cannot have slipped past or round Home Fleet patrol line on morning of 24/11.
Not likely to try to break through until their air reconnaissance reported all clear. Analysis of events shows this has not yet happened, consequently they are probably still awaiting this information.
Assuming they would make passage at night from parallels of about 65° to 59° they are likely to be waiting in area just Northward of Lat. 65°; this area ought to be swept in daylight.
HOOD, WARSPITE and DUNKERQUE should be retained with you as long as fuel permits, in view of importance of intercepting these raiders.

Scapa.

Advantages of base at Scapa for operations against surface raiders. (Admlty. 1029/29).

Enemy Intelligence

A trawler reported that at 1725/24/11 she sighted two men of war in position 64° 40' N. 12° 0' W. steering East in position 50 miles to north of the position where RAWALPINDI was sunk, showing that the raiders remained in the neighbourhood for 24 hours after the attack.

Enemy air activity

0900 AURORA, ILEX and NEWCASTLE all reported being shadowed (400 miles from Germany). A battle flight was sent to attack a/cs. shadowing AURORA and 3 Skuas were sent to NEWCASTLE, but no fights were reported.
During 29/11 the R.A.F. shot down 2 enemy a/cs. one off the Northumberland coast and one 60 miles S.W. of Lister Light (S.W. Norway). The crew of the latter were picked up by a Norwegian ship.
Aircraft were located twice during the night 29/30 Nov., one crossing from Southend to Margate Roads, and North East Spit Buoy, and one off entrance to Harwich. C. in C. Nore was given full details.
A drifter observed a seaplane land on the water

between/

War Diary.

30.11.39.
Thursday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING. (Cont.)

S/ms.attacked.

0530 FORTUNE attacked S/m 59°N. 4'W. approx. Result unknown. S/m was steering westward. Time and position approx. M.I.L.M.H.H. (I.C. 0284/39) No contact since 0530. Operations hampered by heavy sea. (FORTUNE 0930).

S/ms.reported.

0904 55°46'N. 10°45'W. (Malinhead Radio) Reliable fix. (C. in C. W.A. 1143/30) This S/M may be homeward bound and be north of Scotland to-morrow (D.N.I.1627/30)

1118 265° Roscolyn Hd. 8 miles, course 185°, reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1206/30).

1424 By D.F. German naval unit, bearings from six stations (D.N.I. 1529/30).

1303 D.10 Peterhead warned all ships S/m action off Belhelvie (Wick Radio 1259/30)

1227 to 1254 Belhelvie C.G. sighted wake of periscope of S/m from 1227 bearing 150° 5 miles until disappeared 1254 bearing 170°6 miles. Aberdeen M/S trawlers investigating. A/C being sent up. (C.in C. Rosyth 1348/30) (? was this the S/m which sank MERCATOR)

30.11.39.
Thursday.

War.Diary. U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, and MINING.

Ships attacked.

REALF 2023

2 Naval ratings w & Norwegian officer lost.

Norwegian tanker REALF (8083 tons) while being taken under armed guard from Kirkwall in convoy struck a mine when greatly off her course about 18 miles N.N.W. of Outer Dowsing Lt.V. Was set on fire. Cargo - petrol and oil. Position 53°49'N. 0°30'E. One Norwegian officer lost, remainder 2 officers and 8 seamen of prize crew and 32 Norwegians picked up by Italian S.S. SANTA GRATA then transferred to lifeboat and landed at Cromer N/C Yarmouth 2250/1) Still afloat 2030 (F.O. Humber 2320/30) S.S.VALDIROSA reported her on fire 0500/1 (Humber Radio 0525/1) Two Naval ratings injured (F.O. Humber 0350/1).

SHEAF CREST 1045

1 Naval rating k. and 1 Naval Officer w.

British collier (2730 tons) mined while leading convoy down Thames Estuary but slightly off her course 2 miles N.E. of Tongue Lt.V. Master missing and one Naval Signalman killed. The Commodore of convoy, Commander Leslie Griffiths, seriously wounded, 12 of crew landed at Harwich (6 wounded) by BLYSKAWICA; two Naval ratings and 13 of crew landed at Ramsgate. 51°32½'N. 1°25⅘'E. one mile E. of Black Conical Buoy (C.in C. Nore 1058/30) N.O. I/C Ramsgate says coxswain of Margate lifeboat reports having taken 16 injured men from a minesweeper (landed them at Ramsgate) (N.O. I/C Ramsgate 1440/30).

CAMERONIA escaped.

0904 S.S.CAMERONIA was chased and escaped 55°46'N. 10°45'W. (N.W. of Ireland).

PICT escaped.

1540 H.M.S. PICT escorting convoy was missed by torpedo 42°10'N. 12°24'W. (I.C. 0289/39).

BJERKA

1700. Norwegian ship BJERKA, heavy explosion under ship at 1700 in position 56°19'N, 01°18'W. (45 miles N.E. of May Island) in 35 fathoms. Stopped for 20-30 minutes, visibility good, nothing in sight

Losses during September, October, November and same months in 1914 and 1917 are:-

1939 Ships	British 82	Allied 11	Neutral 45
Tonnage.	298,056	55581	159,592
1914 Ships	British 45	Allied 6	Neutral 12
Tonnage.	174,912	10743	16,405
1917 Ships	British 228	Allied 159	Neutral 70
Tonnage	645,904	334,664	115,849

(D.N.I. 1130/3).

Since 13/11, 12 ships have been sunk within a radius of 3 miles of Tongue Lt.V.(Press message, Exchange Tel. 1150/30)

S/Ms.

FOREIGN STATIONS (contd.)

South Atlantic.

ADOLF LEONHARDT — Reported to have sailed from Lobito 21/11 (D.N.I.1759/30).

TACOMA — Now in Antarctic port. Authorities still not granted bunker permit for German ships here.

BAHIA BLANCA — Latest information BAHIA BLANCA painted all black (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2219/30).

French positions — S.O.(I) Freetown 0739/30.

USSUKUMA — Reported USSUKUMA ordered not to sail until further orders but to remain in readiness.

DEUTSCHLAND — Battleship DEUTSCHLAND is waiting.

SCHEER — "ADMIRAL SCHEER must take provisions before 7/12, plan cannot be delayed. Position of (British) S.Atlantic Squadron must be discovered". B.3. (B.N.A.Buenos Aires 1050/30).

ANATOLIA — Has not yet entered dock (do).

China

Submarines — C.in C. thinks it possible that submarines have been on China Station, though it is probable first indication would be sinking of a ship. If this occurs, there are no A/S vessels on China Station other than a few local defence destroyers at Hong Kong and Singapore (C.in C. China 03242/30).

Enquiring Admiralty attitude towards Japanese suggestion that we withdraw our river gunboats. French have decided to withdraw their gunboat from Hankow and disarm it at Shanghai (C.in C. China 0222Z/30).

Raider — Bearing of raider from Bombay Fort 1421Z/30 was 172 3rd class. (C.of I.S. Far East, Singapore 02042/1). Other D/F bearings confirm that bearing from Bombay should read 352° and indicate position about Lat.72°N. (D.N.I.0907/1).

Japanese positions. Captain on Staff TERROR, Singapore 1114Z/30. V.A. Iwamura states he has asked Tokyo to give directions that in future ships' safes are not to be searched (N.L.O.Shanghai 0828Z/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS (contd.)

Australian convoy — Understood first Australian convoy will not sail until end of January. Dispositions of RAMILLIES, MALAYA, GLORIOUS, etc. GLORIOUS to join Force M. when RAMILLIES leaves Force J (to proceed to Australia for escort duties). MALAYA to Gibraltar as soon as possible On arrival of Force I in Madagascar area (C-in-C E.I. 1401/29) DORSETSHIRE is to be detached and sailed for Cape; suggest GLOUCESTER takes her place in Force I. DORSETSHIRE will be employed in conjunction with Forces G and H to enable EXETER and CUMBERLAND to dock refit and rest at Cape in rotation as foreshadowed in my 1334/4. EXETER will probably join Force I later.

New Zealand

Lights — All main navigation lights, harbour and wharf lights in Tongan waters except Malinon Is. Lt. and Nomuka Is. Lt. will be extinguished at sunset 19/12 until further notice (S.O.(I) Wellington 1243/30)

Mediterranean

CONTE DI SAVOIA — See North Atlantic.

French positions — S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1732/30.

Contraband — Small Greek coasting vessel continually running contraband from Cretan and Peloponnesian ports to Salonica, destined for Germany (S.O.(I) Malta 1745/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DUSSELDORF — At Valparaiso. German Consul at Antofogasta reported 30/11 to be making enquiries re delivery there of 700 tons diesel oil to this ship. (Antofogasta 1105/30). Expected at Antofogasta shortly (D.N.I.1837/30).

COLUMBUS — Reported that Mexican CUAUHTENOC left Tampico 29/11 for Vera Cruz with 3000 tons oil fuel for COLUMBUS (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1200/30).

ARAUCA — Still reported as loading at Vera Cruz. Being painted grey all over.

Leakage — Leakage of secret movements and dispositions is occurring. Composition of Force K openly talked about ashore. Precuations to be stiffened up. (Cdre.Cmdg.S.A.D., A.W.I.1415/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS (contd.)

Australian convoy

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

BARHAM, MALAYA, for ocean escorts.

C.N.S. 0019/30 and C. in C., Med., 0421/30. Owing to increasing importance of North Atlantic convoys and of opportunities for enemy breaking out in winter conditions, decided to provide capital ship convoy escort to maximum extent possible. BARHAM to sail for Gibraltar, and MALAYA also to be employed on this service. (C.N.S., 2105/30).

Australia.

Troop Convoy.

Reference movement Australian Division and employment of P. & O. STRATHALLAN. (D. of S.T., 2133/30). Your 2113/30. Understand Commonwealth Govt. now approved sailing of first Australian contingent 9th January. (Australian Naval Board, 1025/2/12). Advance party not ready in time for STRATHALLAN, but for ORION sailing from Sydney 16/12. (Australian Naval Board, 1042/2/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Forces "I" and "J".

Personal Signals during November:-

Dispositions, Force I, Ceylon area; Force J, Socotra area, etc. (C. in C., E.I., 1032/16/11).

Dispositions, Forces I, M, RAMILLIES, HOBART, etc., (C. in C., E.I., 0837Z/17/11, 0703Z/19/11).

GLOUCESTER and OLYMPUS movements. (GLOUCESTER, 1710Z/24/11).

Undesirable to remove Force K. from Freetown-Pernambuco area; Force I to Mauritius area. operational area for Force M to be extended to westward to include Colombo area (D.O.D.(F), 1940/24/11, 1944/24/11).

Force I to sail from Colombo P.M. 28/11 (C. in C., E.I., 1342/25/11).

Appreciation of present situation on East Indies Station(C.in C., E.I., 1407/25/11; D.O.D.(F), 1208/26/11).

Oilers for Force I. (C. in C., E.I., 1359Z/29/11).

Dispositions, Force I to Madagascar; M. to Maldives, operating from Ceylon; J, Socotra area: GLOUCESTER, HOBART, etc. (C. in C., E.I., 1401Z/29/11).

On arrival of Force I. in Madagascar area, DORSETSHIRE to be withdrawn and sailed for Cape, suggested replacement by GLOUCESTER (C.N.S., 2113/30/11).

WAR DIARY. 30.11.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

ENTRERIOS — Narvik reports unidentified ship (reported 29/11 as possibly HINDENBURG) sailed 1030/30. Appeared very short of bunkers and name appeared to be EIRTWHOS (fictitious) now thought to be ENTRERIOS (sailed Pernambuco 24/10). B.C. Narvik 1301/30, 1142/1)

? LIVADIA — Haugesund reports unidentified German ship passed southwards 1645/30 in cargo (Might be LIVADIA which called at Tromso 28/11) (D.N.I.1338/30).

U-boat. — A U-boat homeward bound may pass North of North Rona and Shetlands 30/11 (D.N.I.1715/28)

Belgian trawlers — Many reports received of Belgian trawlers acting suspiciously. Possibly under Dutch colours. Trawlers of any nationality acting suspiciously are to be boarded and if necessary sent in for examination (D.N.I.1345/30 Admiralty General Message. Home 314AZ).

HOSTENTOR — Arrived at Porsgrund a.m. discharging small parts of cargo china clay (Skien 1600/30).

REINHART
L.M. RUSS. — Arrived (Oslo 1541/30)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

MOLA SANJURGO — Reported A1, Spanish submarines MOLA and SANJURJO due to sail from Bilbao 28/11 for Cartagena, calling at Ferrol, Vigo, Cadiz, Ceuta (D.N.I.1401/30).

CONTE DI SAVOIA — Special treatment to be given to CONTE DI SAVOIA (D.E.W.D. 1311/30)

British positions — Positions of British ships 1200/30.(D.C. 1926/29 and 1935/30 to BNLO Marceau)

French positions — D.O.D.(F) 1312/30 S.O.(I) Gib. 1732/30

Gibraltar a/c patrol — Shortage of flying boats in Gibraltar. Impossible to maintain adequately the vital patrol of Straits of Gibraltar and provide air escorts for convoys (FOCNA 1208/1)

East Indies

INDIA
(Italian) — No action to be taken in respect of Italian ship INDIA (C-in-C E.I. 0515Z/30)

HOME COMMANDS (contd.)

BEVERWIJK 20. Dutch vessel, reported to have sent out S.O.S. in Baltic (Press).

Nore Command Movements. Expected movements in Nore Command for 24 hours (C.in C. Nore 0628/30)

TRIAD INGLEFIELD and MAORI with TRIAD put in at Mastre Fjord 0700. INGLEFIELD and MAORI left. TRIAD was later taken to Stavanger. To be placed on slip way 1/12. Repairs are expected to take 4 or 5 days.

Motor A/S boats Cancel Admiralty 1754/28. Motor A/S boats are to remain in Clyde for present.

R/T Shetlands. R/T service to Shetlands is now in operation again (GREENWICH 2209/30) (It went out of action 28/11).

Convoys. Owing to bad weather the Scandinavian convoy did not arrive on the Norwegian coast until 1000/30 (24 hours late). The homeward convoy of 18 ships sailed at 1200/30, escorted by 8 destroyers and covered by SOUTHAMPTON and SUFFOLK.

Dutch Shipping. Press report that from 3/12 the Dutch will start convoying Dutch cargo ships with units of Dutch Navy.

Kirkwall. Re congestion at Kirkwall (N.O. in charge, Kirkwall 1243/29)

Position of French Ships. At 1200/30 (D.C.0250/30)

0400.

W E A T H E R

	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea	S.W. to W.Strong to gale	Moderate
Horns Reef	S.W. to W.Strong to gale	Moderate
Channel	S.W. Strong to gale.	Moderate.
W.Approaches	W. Moderate.	Moderate.
Outlook	Wind moderating in all areas.	Visbility improving.

WAR DIARY. 30.11.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

Dispositions ordered by C.in C. Home Fleet for search for DEUTSCHLAND:-

(a) Cruiser line at 0800/30 to be in 66°10'N (335 miles North of their original line) to steer west until 1300 and then to the southward.

(b) NELSON, AURORA and 9 destroyers 100 miles to S.W. of the western end of cruiser line.

(c) RODNEY and 2 destroyers to westward of Fair Island Channel.

(d) WARSPITE to the westward of the cruiser line.

(e) HOOD, DUNKERQUE and 3 destroyers 100 miles S.W. of Faroe Is., steering North until dark.

Leakage

Intercepted telephone call makes it evident that it is known that warships are expected at Gairloch on 1/12 or 2/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 2346/30).

Northern Patrol

5 A.M.C's leave Clyde a.m. to re-establish the Northern Patrols. Orders FOCNP 1301/30, VANP 1437/30, 1156/1/12. Orders for KASHMIR and KINGSTON to proceed to Clyde to land prisoners, arriving 2/12 weather permitting (C.in C.H.F. 1608/30).

Humber and Harwich forces.

Owing to a considerable increase in German W/T traffic at midnight and the extensive German air reconnaissance carried out on 29/11, it was deduced that a covering force might be leaving Germany to assist the raiders. All ships were warned and destroyers at Humber and Harwich were ordered to have steam at short notice by daylight.

Air Reconnaissance

Extensive air reconnaissance to Norwegian coast and North of Shetlands and to cover TRIAD.

Enemy mines.

Two magnetic mines were detonated 30/11 by magnetic sweeps, (a) In Firth of Forth (61° Inchkeith 6 miles) (b) 3 miles S.W. Southend (270°W. Leigh Buoy 2 cables).
A seine net vessel hauled up a moored mine in his nets 3 miles S. of entrance to Cromarthy Firth 29/11. The mine was cleared and lost.

Unexplained Explosion.

0305 in 52°25'N, 1°56'E. (Approx. 5 miles S.E. Lowestoft).

Suspicious Vessel.

Master of s.s. PERONNE reports that at 0530/29 while anchored ½mile W. of Heaps Buoy in East Swim a suspicious vessel passed him steering E.N.E approx. about 10 knots. Could not be seen well but believed submarine (F.O.I/C London 1140/30).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING (Contd.)

Reported Explosions (Contd.)	0454	From D.O. Walton, Large red flash, 7 to 8 miles, resembling ship mined.
	1020 - 1035	From D.O. Cromer, four heavy explosions heard 30/11 North of Wells, 12 to 15 miles (C. in C. Nore 1648/2)
S/m's. reported	0205	Off Ymuiden see Enemy Intelligence.
	0915	DUNKERQUE saw s/m submerge in 57° 25' N. 9° 55' W.
	1645	Merchant ship reported s/m. 51° 37' N. 1° 41' E. (IC.0286/39)
	1154	By D/F unknown enemy unit 54° 40' N. 2° 30' E. unreliable fix (DNI.1218/2)
	1003	Position LMHH 30 07. IMOGEN, IMPERIAL and IMPULSIVE ordered to hunt. C. in C. Rosyth to obtain correct position (C. in C. H.F. 1104/1). Position given later as LMHH 0430 at 1003, course unknown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1310/1).
	1102	S/m reported Edinburgh Channel. Capt. (D) 22 to reinforce A/S patrol south of South Knock and hunt. (C. in C. Nore 1220/1). See DALRYAN mined. Report considered doubtful.
	1630	S/m. reported near Kentish Knock. GLOWWORM and BOADICEA searched, no contact. (D.A.S.W. 2/12). Report 51 37' N. 01 41' E. considered doubtful.
S/ms. attacked	1445	VERITY attacked contact outside Plymouth breakwater.
	1446	VETERAN to join VERITY in attacking contact outside breakwater. If contact lost, hunt to continue inside loop. (C. in C.W.A. 1446/1) (C. in C. 1560/1).
	1003	Flying boat K. 5259 attacked U-boat 59° 4' N. 3° 30' W. S/m dived. Touch lost.
	1445	VERITY reported she was attacking presumed U-boat outside Plymouth breakwater.
	1700	H.M.S. PICT, convoying O.G.8. in position 37° 29' N. 11° 09' W. struck a submerged object. CHEVALIER paused having sighted periscope. Diver reported metallic scores on keel, possibly S/m periscope (F.O.C. N.A. 1901/4)

War Diary

1. 12. 39.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING

Ships attacked

DALRYAN sunk

1058 M/V DALRYAN (Br. 4558 tons) reported to have been mined and sinking off Tongue Lt. V. Crew abandoning ship. (N. Foreland 1100/1) Crew 38 and the pilot landed Margate. (N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1336/1).
At 1102 DALRYAN reported U-boat after she was mined 51° 31' N. 01° 19' E. (Edinburgh Channel, Thames entrance) (I.C.0286/39). But NOIC Ramsgate 1355/1 says Margate lifeboat returned coxswain reports having on board crew of 49, no lives lost. Vessel (partly submerged. Position when mined 51° 29' 36" N. 1° 21' 36" E. but no accurate fix made as compasses were destroyed by explosion. (N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1700/1).

MERCATOR sunk

0355 MERCATOR (Finnish 4260 tons) sunk by explosion 7 to 8 miles S.E. Magnetic Buchan Ness. First believed mined but s/m had been reported off Belhelvie in that and 1227/30, so may have been torpedoed. Chief Officer, his wife and 11 of crew injured landed at Boddam in ship's boat. Other boat is missing. Position 57 28' N. 1 46' W. Remainder of crew landed later except 1 man killed, 31 survivors in all. (Press) See C. in C. Rosyth 0754/1, 1207/1, 0913/1. Chief Officer interviewed Peterhead, definitely of opinion ship was mined (C. in C. Rosyth 1007/1).

0930 Ship mined or torpedoed off Buchan Ness 0730. Lifeboat out. 2 M/S trawlers despatched from Aberdeen. (C. in C. Rosyth 0754/1) (Evidently MERCATOR) ? ARCTURUS.

0500 Ship appears to be on fire 6 to 7 miles East of Withernsea C.G. Station (F.O. Humber 0500/1).

ARCTURUS sunk

SS. ARCTURUS (1277 tons) reported sunk a.m. 1/12 off N.E coast, possibly by torpedo. 8 survivors landed by Norwegian EVA, 7 more sighted by R.A.F. plane which guided Danish IVAR to pick them up next day.

FLORIDE beached

1500 Floride (French) 7030 tons, from Le Havre to Antwerp, struck a mine in the Channel. Beached about 1,600 yards from lighthouse at Dunkerque. (D.S. 5/12).

Reported Explosions

0305 From C.G. Lowestoft, direction and distance unknown.

1. 12. 39.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

KEPLER	Sailed from Oslo (Oslo 1321/1)
COSTILLA	Arrived Oslo --do-
CORDOBA	Left Narvik 2300/30 southbound (DNI1550/1)
LUDOLF) OLDENDORF)	Left Haugesund 1315/1 southbound (do) Arrived Narvik night 1/2 Dec. (Narvik 1543/3)
JOHANNES AHRENS	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1146/1)
HOSTENTOR	Left Porsgrund last night or early morning (Friday) (Skien 1745/1)
HAMBURG	Anchored Aalsund 1445. Three other German merchantships passed Aalsund bound Northward (D.N.I. 1903/1)
TRACTOR	Left 1315 Southwards (V.C. Haugesund 1359/1).
OLDENBURG	Reported arrived Narvik night 1/12, now loading ore.

South Atlantic.

BAHIA BLANCA	Rio de Janeiro. Outer anchorage and ready for sea. (SO(I)Montevideo 2122/1)
TACOMA) LAHN)	Monte Video. No embargo yet on account of non arrival of documents. Ships show no signs of immediate departure (do)
ANATOLIA) NEINBURG)	Buenos Aires. No signs of moving (do)
USSUKUMA	Bahia Blanca. Ready to sail but no signs of movement reported (do)

America and West Indies.

ESTE) HANNOVER) SEATTLE) VANCOUVER) ALEMANIA) FRISIA)	Fuel oil and lubricating oil requisitioned and paid for by Govt. at Curacoa for these ships. (Adty. D.N.I. 1731/1).

1. 12. 39.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

North Atlantic.

French positions — 1200/1 (DIC 0014/1)
BORDERLAIS escorting and s/ms. passed Gibraltar E. to W. (SO(I)Gib.1658/1)

Convoys — See South Atlantic.

East Indies

Orders for RAMILLES, DELIGHT.
RAMILLIES to relieve MALAYA 6/12 (C. in C. E.I. 1045 Z/1)
Orders for RAMILLES, ETTRICK, HOBART, RANCHI, MALOJA (C. in C.E.I. 1229 Z/1).

China

BIDEFORD, LOWESTOFT — Movements (C. in C. China 0152 Z/1, 0952Z/1

LIVERPOOL — C. in C. China will return to Hong Kong in LIVERPOOL sailing from Singapore p.m. 7/12, arriving Hong Kong am 9/12 (C. in C. China 0820 Z/1).
Re. intercepted signalling in Pacific. Possibly staged to give impression that German s/ms. are in Pacific (S.O.)I)
Hong Kong 0637 Z/1)

1. 12. 39.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and W. Indies

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Reported that an American Army pilot had observed German ship, possibly SCHEER, off Cocos Is. 28/11. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1850/30)

U.S.A. patrol — Reported that sea and air patrol established between Miami and Key West (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0910/1).

Air Reconnaissance — See South Atlantic.

Falklands Staff — Pay etc. of Cypher Staff and Examination Service Officers at Falkland Islands (Commodore S.A. Div. A.W.I. Sqdn. 1112/1)

EXETER — Damage to propeller (Cdre. S.A.D.1231/1).

South Atlantic.

s/m anchorage — Ilhas Cural 25° 44' S. 48° 24' W. possible s/m anchorage (ANA Rio de Janeiro 1055/29)

Convoys — Important that fast convoys from Gibraltar be started. No escorts at present available. To try temporarily the expedient of combining these with fast Freetown to U.K. convoys (SLF) with rendezvous in approx. 33° N. 12° W. which will be varied for each convoy. Re escorts etc. (ACNS 1233/1).

Air Reconnaissance — Air reconnaissance to be arranged of certain areas of coast of Central and South America by civilian observers in commercial air liners and in specially chartered aircraft. (Hd. of M. 1145/1).

s/m reported. — Following received from Naval Attache begins. Rio de Janeiro C 3 repeat C 5. Fishermen report collision between submarine 1249 on 27th November 3 miles southward of Ponta Doboi 023° 57' South 045° 13' West and watched it submerge. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1005/1)

Mediterranean

Leakage — Leakage of information regarding ships' movements and convoys in-going on. (SBNO Suez Canal Area 1046/1 to C. in C. Med.)

C.C. Italian ships — Apparent from signals that Italian ships still being diverted or taken in for contraband control. Cf. GALATEA 0843/1, C.C.S.O. Port Said 0929/1.

MALAYA — To have quick docking. Has been 6 months out of dock (C. in C.Med. 1223/1).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

if she was proceeding to the North (A.C.W.A. 0029/1).

FENNO-SOVIET HOSTILITIES.

U.S.S.R. attacked Finland today.

Minefield — A minefield, of both deep and shallow mines - has been laid along the whole of the Southern Coast. Fortification of Aaland Islands is now being undertaken by Finns with Swedish guns. The Gulf of Bothnia is beginning to freeze.

KIROV — On 1/12 a Russian squadron consisting of the new cruiser KIROV and 3 destroyers appeared off Hango. It is reported that after 15 minutes the KIROV withdrew possibly having been damaged by the 12 inch batteries. She has returned to Tallinn. Reliable report that one Soviet destroyer sunk and one damaged.

Lights extinguished — The Finnish Naval Staff state that all lights in Gulf of Finland and Baltic have been extinguished.

1. 12. 39.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

S/m's. positions — Positions of British s/m's. 0700/1 (D.C.2035/30).

A.M.C's. — Now decided that all A.M.C.'s are to work up at Portsmouth before joining Northern Patrol or commencing other service. (D.C.N.S. 0227/1).

Coast watchers — Suggest rewards be given to coast watchers who give useful information of enemy activities (A.C.O.S. 81937/1)

Economic Warfare — Goods shipped after 20/11 to neutral ports in Europe consigned to forwarding agents or "order" without specifying name of buyer are liable to seizure by order of M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 1402/30). No discrimination can be shown to Italian vessels as distinct from other neutrals but every endeavour is made to reduce delay to minimum. Inward bound may be given enough fuel to their terminal point in Italy. When barred from U.K. sufficient fuel to reach U.K. and next outward port of call so as to avoid fuelling in U.K. (Head of M. 1146/1).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	S.W. Moderate to Fresh	Poor to moderate
Horns Reef	W. Moderate	Good
Channel	S.W. Fresh to gale	Moderate
W. Approaches	S.W. Strong to gale	Poor

Outlook - Unsettled; strong S.W. Winds.

Enemy Intelligence

French N.A. reported that at 0205/1 six German minesweepers, 2 minelayers, 2 U-boats (200 ton) and 4 patrol vessels were off Ymuiden, steering S.W. (N.A. Sgravenhage 1125/1) SNAPPER was informed (Capt. (S)3. 0851/1). 22nd D.F. sent to patrol to seaward of Galloper, 7th D.F. to Outer Dowsing Patrol (C. in C. Nore 0830/1) SNAPPER informed (Capt. CS3, 1131/1).
It appears that a German Naval unit is near Murmansk.

Mines — Two moored mines reported by A/C in 51° 10' N. 1° 38' E. (IC 0286/39)

? Supply Ship — Unknown unit believed from unusual W/T procedure to be possibly vessel such as supply ship, by D/F 2115/30 in approx. 53° N. 13° W. (D.N.I.0005/1)
EXMOUTH, ECHO, ECLIPSE were ordered to search with object of intercepting her if?

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

and sank. 7 of crew landed by BULLDOG at Ramsgate (N.O.i/c Ramsgate 1225/1).

GIPSEY Salvage — Lifting craft in readiness to salve GIPSY. If weather not adverse, craft will proceed 0600 2/12 and commence operations on fore part. (Salvage Section 1824/1) Further re GIPSY (Salvage Section Harwich 2146/2)

Defences of Clyde — Defences (Clyde) both against air and s/m attack are much better than port A. Desirable that patrol craft should be concentrated at one place. Re - RODNEY, NELSON, HOOD - Clyde prepared. 1st A/S Striking force has been sent to Clyde area (DCNS 1725/1). Arrangements now in hand for formation of a motor boat patrol of river Clyde from Glasgow to Greenock manned by a voluntary organisation (F.O.i/c Clyde 1501/1)

Unexplained explosions
1125 6 miles off shore from Rosehearty.
1800 About 1800 N. of Pabbay Sound of Harris (C. in C. Rosyth 2032/1)
1305 Approx. 52° 25' N. 1° 56' E. (C. in C. Nore 1123/1).

Air Activity — At 1745 two enemy aircraft are reported to have attacked an unknown ship in approx. 60° 29' N. 1° 37' W. (IC 0286/39)
At 1144 one unidentified biplane was sighted in approx. 51° 46' N. 1° 42' E. flying low on an easterly course. (IC. 0286/39)
After dark three unidentified aircraft were reported off Lossie mouth flying low. They disappeared about 1830 in a Northerly direction. (IC. 0286/39).

Balloon Barrage — Shortage of craft to visit balloon lighters and relieve crews. (C.S. Sheerness 2315/1)

Enemy mining. — Remark overheard by source reliability not proved that magnetic mines are to be laid at Scapa Flow nights 1, 2, 3 December (D.N.I. 1928/1)(FOCOS 2330/1, ACOS2320/1)

Suspicious vessel — Vessel approx. 1000 tons, nationality unknown 065° Scarborough 2 to 3 miles acting suspiciously. 1934 (C. in C. Rosyth 2009/I)

Convoys — Procedure of convoys if not met by local escort in Western Approaches (C. in C. W.A. 1146/1)

Volume of Signalling — Signal traffic is increasing. Possible delay to operational messages. Steps to be taken to reduce it. (H. of M. 1320/1. A. Message Home or Abroad 850A)

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

The search for the DEUTSCHLAND was discontinued at 0900/DC. 0820/1)
The major portion of the Home Fleet returned to Northern Bases for fuel and rest.
(a) HOOD, RODNEY (with defective steering gear) and 5 destroyers to Clyde.
(b) NORFOLK and SHEFFIELD at Scapa.
(c) SOUTHAMPTON, EDINBURGH and AURORA and 3 destroyers to Rosyth.
(d) 6 "C" and "D" class cruisers to Port A. Expect to arrive am/2.
(e) COLOMBO and CALYPSO to Tyne tonight.
(f) WARSPITE, now West of Shetlands, to position 56° N. 14' W., 300 miles West of Clyde at 1730/2 proceeding to Portsmouth. Three "E" class destroyers to rendezvous with her at above position and time, as escort.

DUNKERQUE was joined at 0800 in 340° QSAW 14 by MOGADOR and VOLTA (French cruisers).
This force is now proceeding down West coast of Ireland (A.C.W.A. 1144/1).
The C. in C. Home Fleet with NELSON and 3 destroyers are North of Faroes, to cover the AMC's returning to the Northern Patrol. C. in C. will return to Clyde 0830/4 if no further information of the enemy has been received.
NEWCASTLE and DEVONSHIRE are patrolling on lat. 62 N. (60 miles North of Shetlands) between the Shetlands and Norway.
SUFFOLK and GLASGOW covering convoy H.N.3. which is East of the Orkneys.

Northern Patrol

Six AMC's have arrived on their patrol lines south of Iceland.

Air Reconnaissance

Extensive air reconnaissance. Patrols to cover the greater part of the North Sea, paying particular attention to the Norwegian coast and to the entrance to the Skagerrak. Special patrols North of the Shetland Is. and 100 miles North of the cruiser patrol line.

Enemy forces not attacked

A flight of Wellingtons from Bomber Command located hostile destroyers and minesweepers West of Borkum at 1350. These ships were challenged and replied by opening fire at our a/cs. They were observed to have markings on their upper deck similar to our markings for the day; doubt was raised as to their identity and they were not attacked. Bomber Command had been given a free bombing area which covered the North German coast.

Casualties

CRETHE

Danish sailing vessel CRETHE ran aground on South Goodwins and was finally abandoned

and/

War Diary. 2.12.39.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

SAN CALISTO Sunk	1040	Oil tanker SAN CALISTO (8010 tons) sunk by two mines 3 miles N.E. of Tongue lightship. In ballast Hull to Curacoa. 2 killed, 5 missing, 36 saved (9 injured - 4 seriously).
Trawler		Press message from Reykjavik says English trawler beached Iceland fleeing from U-boat.
ESKDENE sunk	2240	British S.S. ESKDENE 3800 tons, sunk by mine or torpedo in 56°40'N., 01°50'W., had become detached in bad weather, ESKIMO 2346/2) Intensive search by ICARUS, ILEX, Montrose lifeboat and air revealed neither ship, survivors nor S/M. (C-in-C., Rosyth 1059/3). Discovered by aircraft in 56°20'N., 00°15'W, salvage appears practicable and tug to be sent from Rosyth. (C-in-C., Rosyth 1239/4). Crew of 29 picked up by Norwegian HILD in 56°19'N., 0°19'W. at 1130/3, none injured. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 0318/4. Two destroyers searching. Depth of water 35 fathoms. 5/12 still afloat as a derelict. Tug BULGER with A/S and M/S trawlers from Rosyth are endeavouring to bring her in. She was towed into Shields and beached on Herd Sands 8/12. Crew 29 all picked up.
RUDOLF sunk	2333	Swedish S.S. RUDOLF, 2119 tons, torpedoed and fired on, reported position 56°15'N., 01°25'W., search by small trawler and air has so far revealed nothing. (C-in-C., Rosyth 1059/3). Eight survivors (Captain and 7 men) picked up by trawler CARDEN of Hull, position given as 56°15'N., 01°20'W. Another boat adrift in vicinity. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1425/4). 14 saved, 9 lost (Norwegian broadcast 5/12).
S/M's Reported.	1505	Periscopes reported from shore 4 miles E. of Aberdeen (C-in-C., Rosyth 1558/2). Aircraft from Dyce searching.
	0500	Relisble report of 2 U-boats off Polperro. 50.17 N., 04.35 W., speaking one another. ANTELOPE joining VETERAN and WHITEHALL to search to westward. (C-in-C., W.A., 1306 and 1333/2. VEGA, GRENVILLE, ACHATES and WINDSOR searched to Eastward. Search continued throughout 3/12.
	2335	By D.F. bearings from Cupar, etc., (D.N.S. 0024/3) position 62°30'N., 13°00 W., (D.N.I. 0142/3).
	0310	S.S. ISLAND QUEEN sighted U-boat 49°53'N,1°55'W course E.S.E. (IC 0289/39).
	1335	Periscope seen by special constable between Carmal Head and Cove Rock Beacon making to seaward between Westmouth and Skerries. (C-in-C W.A. 1535/2).
	1154-1600	Possible U-boat over Dogger Bank.

War Diary.

2. 12. 1939
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boat Campaign and Mining.

A/S Results. M. 016187/39, dated 2. 12. 1939. Subject, A/S Results for the Month of October, 1939, from Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.

War Diary. 2.12.39
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.).

South Atlantic.

ADOLF LEONHARDT	Cancel 1759/30. Ship now reported still at Lobito 28/11 (D.N.I.1425/3).
COLUMBUS	Unknown proportion of the 20,000 barrels of petroleum on board S.S. ~~CHAUTEMOC~~ CUAUHTENOC which has reached Vera Cruz from Tampico is being discharged into the COLUMBUS (Press).

N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1155/2 and 1219/4.

NORDERNEY	Inactive at Para.
KÖNIGSBERG	At Para, ready for sea but awaiting rubber cargo.
SAO PAULO	At Cabedello, ready with cotton cargo but delayed by bunker explosion.
URUGUAY) WOLFSBURG)	At Pernambuco ready for early departure. Have recently received additions to crews.
ANTONIO DELFINO	At Bahia, inactive.
BOLLWERK) MACEIO)	At Bahia, only partially ready.
BAHIA (? USSUKUMA)	At Bahia ready for sea but crew disaffected (See also S.O.(I) Montevideo 2050/4 and 4/12).
BAHIA BLANCA	At Rio de Janeiro, instant departure expected.
LA CORUNA) SANTOS)	At Rio de Janeiro having been docked and preparing for early departure.
WAKAMA	At Rio de Janeiro held up by British Coy., pending litigation.
BABITONGA	At Santos, almost ready for sea; collecting Diesel oil.
DRESDEN	At Santos, uncertain.
MONTEVIDEO	At Rio Grande, impounded by Brazilian judicial authority.
COLUMBUS	Has completed with oil and provisions at Vera Cruz 2/12, 50 deserters from this and another ship at Tampico reported by Mexico City.
ARAUCA	Reliably reported 2/12 will sail simultaneously with COLUMBUS.

War Diary. 2.12.39.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

FRANKFURT — German ship FRANKFURT from Rotterdam for Hamburg, apparently fully loaded copper etc., lying at Ymuiden until weather moderates (Consul-Gen., Amsterdam) 1040/2, 1420/2).

Haugesund — Unknown German ship reported to have passed southward 1715. (Vice-Consul, 1750/2).

CASTOR — German ship CASTOR arrived Porsgrund. (Nielsen Skien 1030/2). Apparently left Porsgrund night 2/3 Dec. (Skien 1830/3).

NAJADE — Has sailed from here (Oslo 1421/2).

~~HOLSTENTOR~~ HOLSTENTOR — Has arrived (do)

NIEDERWALD — Arrived 2/12 during night partly loaded (Narvik 1543/3).

GLUCKAWF — German Govt. through Swedish Legation have informed French Govt. that this ship has been converted into a hospital ship.

ASCUNSION — (Left Las Palmas 10/11) arrived Narvik night 2/12.

Mediterranean.

ARKADIA — Arrived Constanza 2/12 to load cotton goods for Iran via Batum. (I.C.O.289/39).

SALZBURG — Sailed from Contanza 2/12 for Batum (do).

South Atlantic.

WATUSSI scuttled. — South Africa aircraft No.16 Bombing reconnaissance squadron sighted suspected merchant ship 1030, 74 miles 167° from Cape Point. Forces her to steer for Simonstown. She hoisted German colours and name WATUSSI, 9521 tons. Position at 1415 65 miles 1670 from Cape Point, course 356°, 9 knots. WATUSSI later sent S.O.S. and reported fire in the ship, which was scuttled. Crew and passenger, 198 all told, including 14 women and 2 children picked up by SUSSEX and landed Simonstown 2359/2. (N.O. i/c Simonstown 2250/2 says 60 miles South of Cape Point). WATUSSI had left Mosambique in disguise 22/11. She was finally sunk by gunfire by Force K. (N.O. i/c Simonstown 1643/3). Passengers and crew to be questioned searchingly in order to discover whether she was a supply ship to a raider and if so which (D.N.I.1714/3). No connection. Escape probably due to shortage and hope of better conditions further south. Ship carried no gun mountings. (N.O. i/c Simonstown 0855/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS. (Contd.).

East Indies.

Cuddalore. Considered that Cuddalore should be classed as a routeing post class 20. Certain ships take their departure from Cuddalore and Masters have requested to be issued with routeing instructions. (F.O.C., R.I.N., 0510 Z/Z).

DORSETSHIRE Force I. GLOUCESTER Proceed to Cape after fuelling and come under orders of C-in-C., S.A. Proceed through Mozambique Channel; consider whether CORNWALL and EAGLE should accompany her through Channel. GLOUCESTER after four days rest to replace DORSETSHIRE in Force I. (C-in-C EI 1234Z/2).

North Atlantic.

French Ships Halifax. Battleship LORRAINE, cruisers MARSEILLAISE and JEAN DE VIENNE arrived Halifax 1/12. (Canadian S.O.(I), 1500/1).

Australia.

Troop transport. Proposals for movement Australian Brigade will be notified very shortly, but it is confirmed that ORION is being requisitioned for purpose. (Dir. of Sea Transport, 2050/2).

China.

Impossible under present system to warn H.M. Ships on patrol of British sailings from Japan (S.O.(I) Shanghai 0649Z/2). Fairly reliable report that all crews of German ships in Far East are to leave for Germany via Siberia, leaving care and maintenance parties only. Tentative bookings made in Shanghai 10 days ago for 1050 to 1060 persons to travel "hard" to Germany via Siberia. (S.O.(I) Shanghai 0559Z/2).

War Diary.

2.12.39.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Routeing and Bunkering. Routeing and bunkering instructions on S. Atlantic Station (H.W.R. Adty 1931/2).

DORIC STAR sunk S.S. DORIC STAR (Blue Star Line, 10.086 tons) reported she was gunned by a battleship in 19° 15'S, 5°5'E at 1615/2 (N.O. i/c Simonstown 1615/2). Later assumed sunk. Not in convoy. Left Cape 28/11 for Freetown. Cargo wool, butter, cheese etc.

SUSSEX Arrived Simonstown midnight 2/12.

? Enemy battleship. Report that Brazilian Air Squadron leader sighted warship to-day approx. 30 miles from coast; believed to be pocket battleship (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2000/2). V-A Natal reports sighting through binoculars a warship probably sloop steaming northward at 1430. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2245/2).

Force K. Proposal that Force K (arrived Cape Town 0700/2 (N.O. i/c Simonstown 2250/2)) should sweep direct from Cape to 020°S 015°W sweeping north to Freetown (for raider) (C-in-C. S.At. to Adty 1721/2).

Force H. Force H will proceed in accordance with C-in-C SA's 1625/2 Dec. after fuelling. SHROPSHIRE due Simonstown 0630/3 (N.O. i/c Simonstown 2250/2). Considerable numbers of crews formerly on Panama Transport vessels have been able to reach home by plane from Lisbon. (S.H.Q. Ottawa 1447/2) (Intercepted cablegram to Panama ship PROMETHEUS).

America and West Indies.

N.O. i/c Falklands. Request that S.O.(I) Falklands be appointed also as N.O. i/c Falkland Isles so that he can represent Commodore Commanding in various naval questions (Commodore, S.A. Div., 1415/2).

Falklands Defence. I am quite satisfied that Port Stanley is adequatel defended within limits of its old and short range guns. Only question of transport to overcome ammunition question. Discipline adequate. We can rely on getting warning of embarkation of German reservists in S. America and it is for Navy to intercept any such military expedition (Cdy. S.A.D. 1223/2).
Cable seen on German N.A.'s Secretary's desk "Find out for certain before Dec. 10 whether entrance to Port-Stanley and Byron Bay are obstructed.
(British N.A. Buenos Aires to D.N.I. 1819/2).

War Diary.

2.12.39.
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Distribution. On Force I approaching Madagascar area it is possible any raider working that area will move to Atlantic. Forces K and H to fuel immediately and then return to their present patrol areas. Mails for Force K to be retained Sierra Leone. (C.N.S., 0016/2).

Propose that Force K on completion of fuelling carry out a sweep direct from Cape to position 020° south 015° west, sweeping north to Freetown from this position. (C. in C., S.A., 1721/2).

East Indies.

Force I., DORSETSHIRE. Admiralty 2113/30/11. DORSETSHIRE to proceed to Cape and act as ordered by C. in C., South Atlantic. GLOUCESTER to take place of DORSETSHIRE in Force I. (C. in C., East Indies, 12342/2). Your 12342/2, DORSETSHIRE to proceed with despatch to the Cape. No objection to CORNWALL, EAGLE and GLOUCESTER resting at Mauritius or elsewhere. (C.N.S., 0143/3).

America and W. Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy. DUNKERQUE will not be required for first troop convoy but very probable that a request will be made for her to escort second troop convoy leaving Halifax about 21 Dec. (D.O.D.(F), 1617/2).

D. of S.T.'s 2317/27/11. To provide cargo for second shipment require the deadweight cargo capacity, stowage, etc. (for Sir Edward Beatty). (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2011/2).

Appears AQUITANIA should be substituted for MAURETANIA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1053/2).

T.C.1. General instructions for conduct of first Canadian troop convoy, to be referred to as Operation T.C.1. (D.C N.S., 1525/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Cont.)

Force K.
Force H. — To proceed forthwith to complete with fuel and fresh provisions at Capetown or Simonstown and return to patrol line immediately on completion. Anticipated any raider in Indian Ocean will move to Atlantic on approach of Force I towards Madagascar about 4/12 (C.in C. S.A. 0555/2/12).

DORSETSHIRE. to S.Atlantic relief by GLOUCESTER. — Orders for DORSETSHIRE (to proceed to Cape), CORNWALL, EAGLE, GLOUCESTER (to take place of DORSETSHIRE in Force I) (Re. Adty. 2113/30/11/39) (C.in C. E.I. 1234 Z/2/12).

Force H.)
Force K.) — To proceed with all despatch to the Cape fuelling port (C.in C. S.A. 1621/2 12/39).

Force H. — Without waiting for Force K, proceed immediately after fuelling to cover trade route between Cape and latitude of St. Helena (C.in C. S.A. 1625/2 12/39).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

Economic Warfare. Negotiations still proceeding with French and Italians. Detailed instructions will be issued before export control is enforced. (D.E.W.D., 1932/2).

Enemy Mining. Three successes in exploding mines by magnetic sweeps (D.N.I.2221/2).

British minefield. Notice of new British minefield in North Sea issued. Covers 300 square miles about midway between Thames Estuary and Schelde.

Clyde defences. Local defences of Clyde are cause of considerable anxiety. Insufficient A/S vessels to work outside boom and merchant ships waiting outside have no protection. Present forces at Liverpool and Belfast inadaquate for local defence and cannot loan vessels to Clyde, nor can other boats in Western Approaches spare auxiliary craft. Considered imperative that immediate steps be take to reinforce local defence craft in Clyde. (ACWA 1312/2).

(S.C.,0813/2).

French Positions. DUNKERQUE, 2 cruisers and 4 scouts proceeding to Brest. (C-in-C W.A., 1845/2) Special escort asked for submarines CASA BIANCA and SFAX leaving Convoy HX 11 to Brest (FOC 3 B.S.,1134/1).

S/M's positions. 0700/2 (D.C.1901/1, 0407/2).

WEATHER

0500	Wind.	Visibility.	Weather.
North Sea	S.W. Strong	Moderate.	Overcast with slight rain.
Channel	N.W. Strong	Good.	Cloudy
Western Approaches	N.W. Strong gale locally.	Good.	Cloudy.
Horns Reef.	S.W. Strong.	Moderate.	Overcast with slight rain.

Outlook. Strong N.W. winds and good visibility spreading Eastwards over North Sea. N.W. wind moderating gradually during the day.

Enemy Intelligence.

Destroyers sighted. At 0530 a report was received from Flag Officer, Tyne, that at 0230 A/A patrol trawler LOCH DOON sighted 4 unidentified ships, apparently destroye 5 miles East of Coquet Island, steering North. The ships then made off Eastwards. Delay in receiving report was due to LOCH DOON's wireless being defective.
Coastal Command organised an air search by Hudsons at first light and the Humber Force was brought to short notice. Ships at sea in Area A were informed.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.).

S/M's — Reported by Norwegian Air Force that three German S/M's lay for two days just outside Norwegian territorial waters near Stadd before attack on convoy. (N.A. Oslo 1400/2 and 1100/5 asking for further information (D.N.I. 2018/4).

German C.C. — Reported that two or three days ago there were 40 Swedish, 27 Finnish and 13 Norwegian ships at Contraband Control at Kiel. A number of them were loading with woodpulp for America (NA. Oslo 1230/2).

Sabotage. — Report received that Germans may have started campaign to damage oil wells, refineries etc., by sabotage all over the world. (D.N.I. 0027/3).

Naval unit located. — Enemy naval unit was located in approx. 54°40'N, 2°30'E (80 miles E.N.E. Flamborough Head) at 1154. At 1615 apparently the same unit appeared to be about 60 miles to North Eastward of that position. (IC 0287/39) At 2335 an unknown enemy naval unit possibly a raider was located in approx, 61°50'N 12°20'E. (IC 0287/39).

German merchant vessel located by D/F at 1000 off Norwegian coast between Lat. 60°N and 61°N (DNI.1059/2).

War Diary.

2.12.1939
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Northern Patrol.

Public feeling about armed merchant cruisers, and possibility that if more sinkings followed RAWALPINDI we might be forced to remove them from Northern Patrol. Suggestions to C.in-C., H.F., and views requested on them and as to general intention as regards leave and refits of NELSON, RODNEY AND employment of WARSPITE and of VALIANT when worked up. (Sec. to 1st S.L., 0200/2).
Reply of C.in.C. When RENOWN and VALIANT are available propose to keep two battleships and one battle-cruiser at sea until Scapa is available, short refit and leave being worked in as possible, such as will happen with RODNEY now. (C.in C., H.F., 2240/3).

War Diary.

2.12.39.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

NELSON and 4 destroyers on patrol near Faroe Islands. RODNEY arrived Clyde.
HOOD and 2 destroyers left Clyde 1910/2 to proceed to patrol area North of Faroe Islands.
WARSPITE was diverted to Clyde as result of defects found in RODNEY's steering gear.
WARSPITE due Clyde pm/3.

Northern patrol.

6 AMC's on patrol.
Orders for SUFFOLK and BERWICK (FOCNP 2323/2).
SHEFFIELD left Scapa 2030/2 to patrol between Faroes and Iceland.

Air Reconnaissance.

Extensive air patrols, including Norwegian coast reconnaissance and North of the Shetlands.
Special continuous A/S patrol to cover the area Thames Approaches, Maas Lightship and Texel.
In view of danger of valuable targets being missed proposed to inform Bomber Command that when free bombing area is given they can attack any warship except S/M's (C-in-C. Coastal Command to Air Ministry, 1st Lord etc., 1656/2).
Reply from Air Ministry agreed (1933/2).

Casualties.

TRIAD.
Left Stavanger 1315/21. Arrived Rosyth 0700/4 ready for sea 12/12

PUNJABI.
At 0200 PUNJABI escorting HOOD into Clyde collided with S.S. LAIRDSCREST off Holy Island. Damage is unknown, but PUNJABI cannot anchor. Proceeded up Clyde stem first (PUNJABI 1020/2).

FOWEY
Escorting Convoy SL.11 was slightly damaged in collision with unknown vessel at 2300/2 when a few hours out from Freetown.

Suspicious Vessels.

F.O. Tyne reports trawler LOCH DOON A/A patrol sighted four unidentified ships apparently destroyers at 0232 five miles east of Coquet Light steering N. made off to Eastward 0500. (C-in-C Rosyth 0510/2 ships and authorities in area A 0522/2, 7th D.F. raise steam and remain at ½ hour's notice (C-in-C Nore 0614/2) See also fuller signal from C-in-C Rosyth 1341/2) Air search was carried out but nothing suspicious was located except a group of 5 Danish fishing smacks in 54°35'N, 2°51'E at 1235 90 miles east of Flamborough Head whose position coincided with a D/F fix of an unidentified German unit. JERSEY and JAGUAR were ordered to investigate. Maybe disguised enemy employed in minelaying (C-in-C Nore 1526/2).

War Diary. 3.12.39.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

Ships Attacked.		
? FLORIDE beached.	Press report that S.S. FLORIDE (French struck a German mine to-day but was able to beach near an unnamed French port. Two men killed.	tons)

3.12.39
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M's reported.

Unconfirmed Press reports of U-boats molesting fishing craft off Iceland. It is possible D.F. bearings were of U-boats. (D.D.N. 1227/3)

3 U-boats laying mines just outside territorial waters in neighbourhood of Stadtlandet, lat 62° N, according to a Norwegian Air Force pilot. (D.N.I. 1800/3)

0940 S/m possibly damaged, estimated to be in 60° 14' N., 09° 55' W. passing to eastward at 5 knots. Should be in approx 60° 50' N., 03° 50' W., at 0900 4/12. A/S trawler and air hunt requested (C. in C. H.F. 1530/3) Hatston and Manela ordered to attack (F.O.C.O.S. 2020//) Air force returned without sighting submarine. (F.O.C.O.S. 1004/4)

2245 S/M indicated on line joining Lands End and Fastnet. May be proceeding northwards past W. coast of Ireland (C. in C. W.A.2249/3) I.C.0288/39 says 2045 indication of s/m between Lands End and Fastnet.

1053 Crossing of May loop (C. in C. Rosyth 1059/39) ICARUS and ILEX carried out A/S sweep on way back to Rosyth and AFRIDI and ZULU searched inside May Island.

North Atlantic.

1830 Unknown s/m reported, stated reliable but nevertheless doubted, off Povoacao near Fayal, Azores (I.C.0289/39) Steering E. Confidential report of Captain of Port, Ponta Delgada. (N.C.S.O. San Miguel 1045/4)

S/M's attacked.

By aircraft 100 miles N. of Cape Wrath. (D.C.2020/3)

By H.M.S. VEGA 9 miles S.W. St. Catherines I.O.W. ACHATES and WINDSOR have joined in hunt (C. in C. Portsmouth 1231/3)
U-boat was thought to be going up Channel and might possibly be trying to pass through Straits of Dover. VEGA was unable to regain contact.
By Anson aircraft 35 miles N.W. Terschelling
One hit claimed submarine sighted on surface speed 15 knots. Started to submerge. Conning tower awash when 1st bomb dropped. hit right amidships. Oil 50 feet across spread over surface at once. (C. 1943, 1357/3) I.C0288/39 says 1046, position 53° 40' N. 4° 20 E. Now appears that s/m attacked was H.M.S. SNAPPER and that attack resulted in the breaking of several electric lamps. (Capt. (S) 39 1253/6)
From SNAPPER's report (SNAPPER- War patrol Narrative, Capt. (S) 3 No. 0614/7/12/39) it appears, however possible that SNAPPER was bombed by enemy a/c at much same time as a/c claimed to have hit enemy s/m.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Command.

HINDENBURG — German shipDHLR (HINDENBURG) passed southbound noon. Ship and funnel painted black, appeared to be loaded. (Tromsoe 1255/3)

NEUENFELS — Narvik German ship name unknown arrived (Narvik 1543/3) name is NEUENFELS (Consul, Narvik 1239/5.)

North Atlantic.

ARUCAS, KARNAK, LECH, RIO DE JANEIRO, MACKENZIE — Reported departures now imminent night 3/12 or 4/12 (S.O.(I) Gib. 1503/3) ARAUCAS and KARNAK reported armed. (C. in C.W.A. 0105/4)

Reported 2 German tankers with names painted out at Las Palmas.
(C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1255/3)

South Atlantic.

BAHIA BLANCA, ADOLPH W, LEONHARDT, WAGOGO, WAMERU — Reported in Rio with Dutch colours painted on sides. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1255/3) Cape Town confirms these still at Lobito (C. in C. S.A. 1240/3)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SCHEER. Dutch S.S. MAFRIA reports stopped by SCHEER 0900216/11 in 28° 20' S. 40° 40' E. Description. Headed South high speed. Cinematograph film was taken of her, now with S.O.(I) being developed at Singapore. (C.I.O.S. Far East, Singapore 0728Z/3)(Position is about 360 miles S.E. of where S.S. AFRICA SHELL was sunk at noon 15/11) Little doubt it was SCHEER (Capt. on Staff TERROR, Singapore 0716Z/4)
Re possible oil fuel store in Mazimbwa Bay 11° 20' S. 40° 20' E. (N.O. i/c Kildini 1430/3)
Film examined. No doubt ship was ADMIRAL SCHEER class, either SCHEER or SPEE.
(Chief of Intell. Staff Far East, Singapore 1539Z/5.

America and West Indies.

Oil for British Cruiser. Necessity for using oiler for efficient operation of cruiser on west coast of South America. Coast of Chile more than 2000 miles long. Movements limited by International Law prohibiting fuelling more than once every three months in any one country. Necessity for stringent application of neutrality law by Central and South American Republics.
DESPATCH was provided with list of unfrequented anchorages but was instructed to fuel outside territorial waters wherever possible (C. in C.A.W.10245/3) (M00625/37)
German organisation at Tampico believes ships (COLOMBUS ARAUCA) will be met at sea by a German cruiser (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1705/3)

China.

Chinese coasters under German flag. In order to evade Japanese blockade between Shanghai and Ningpo several Chinese owned coasters were transferred to German flag. S.S. MOJAFFENHOFF (2000 tons) is largest. Operation of capture difficult owing to prevalence of territorial waters but was ordered though abandoned owing to news that MOJAFFENHOFF had over 3000 Chinese passengers on board. Operation would raise storm of indignation among Chinese and cause friction with Japanese. Suggest pressure be brought to bear on Chinese owners to transfer to another neutral flag, making exception of rule of non-transference of ownership during hostilities. (C. in C. China. 0231Z/3)

War Diary. 3.12.1939, Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Appreciation of situation, and dispositions to intercept raider. (C. in C., S.A., 1242//3)

Force "K" at disposal of C.in C., S.Atlantic. Assumed raider will not proceed round Cape. Desired that DROSETSHIRE should in due course relieve EXETER, but until present situation cleared up she may be used as independent unit. (C.N.S., 0144/3).

Employment of Force "X" handicapped by the low endurance of French destroyers and their inability to fuel at sea. During absence of French battleship STRASBOURG the two 8-in. cruisers must remain with HERMES and destroyer and consequently cannot be employed separately on extended zigzag courses. (C. in C., S.A., 1625/3).

DORSETSHIRE to proceed to Cape and come under C. in C., South Atlantic (C.N.S., 0143/3/12, C. in C., E.I., 0451E/3/12). Ordered to Simonstown and Falklands with EXETER (C. in C., S.A., 1307/4/12).

America and West Indies.

2nd Troop Convoy. Intended that close escort for 2nd Canadian Troop Convoy should be provided by REVENGE and that covering force should consist of BARHAM, DUNKERQUE and a French 6-in. cruiser if available. (1st S.L., 2253/3).

French Assistance. Request to Admiral Darlan for DUNKERQUE and a 6-in. cruiser, and for Vice-Adm. Gensoul to assume command of convoy and escort. (1st S.L., 2301/3, to BNLO, Marceau).

My 2105/30 and 2113/30. BARHAM and MALAYA after docking of latter to proceed at best possible speed to Halifax. (1st S.L., 2302/3), (to C.in C.'s, Med. and E. Indies). BARHAM and MALAYA should be employed in manner similar to that prescribed for R. class battleships, but early opportunity taken for sending them on a through passage to U.K. for leave. (C.N.S., 2310/3).

My 1525/2 and 1649/27/11. If desirable, request you direct R.A. Holland to hoist his flag in EFFINGHAM and assume command of troop convoy and escort for western portion of passage. Transfer of flag to RESOLUTION could be affected when she returns to Halifax. (1st S.L., 2303/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

? SCHEER — Walvis Radio reports that at 0530/3 British ship PORT CHALMERS retransmitted message received from unknown ship at 0501, ending "Battleship VON SCHEER (N.O. i/c Simonstown 0331/4).
If raider proceeds to North Atlantic, as I consider likely, Force K and H will be too late to intercept. If no further information is obtained and there is no marked movement of the marauding German merchant vessels on Union of S. Africa coast before 8/12 Force K will proceed to Freetown searching in squares K.35 and J.35 on the way. Force H will continue to cover southern half of Cape trade route before leaving. L'AUDACIEUX (Cruiser) is proceeding to Dakar p.m. 3/12 for small repairs. Destroyers after some days at sea and boiler cleaning. Force X returned to Dakar 39/11 and possibly requires 6 days in harbour. If there is definite news of raider proceeding northward all Forces at Freetown and Dakar will be sailed to cover as much of Freetown (? Permambuco) area as possible. CLYDE proceed to Dakar 9/12 for docking. (C-in-C S.A. 1242/3).

NEPTUNE — Left for Dakar, time of arrival 1600/4 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1849/3).

Force K. — Arrived Capetown 0715/3/12. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0800/3).

SCHEER — At 0501/3 unknown ship reported she was being attacked by ADMIRAL SCHEER in position believed to be 21°20'S, 3°10'E. (Nothing further heard of either ship (D.N.I. 1116/4).

SHROPSHIRE — Arrived Simonstown 0630/3.

North Atlantic.

S/M supplies. — Consul, Malaga, reports evidenc of U-boats being supplied at various points along coast, notably off Cala Honda, 20 miles S.W. of Malaga (S.O.(I). Gib. 1212/3)

A/C's — Three unidentified A/C flying over Madeira. Could have been Italian (D.N.I.1228/3, 1700/4).

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Governments are not to be discharged but are to be detained and reported to M.E.W. Consignments to British or French ports should not be detained but will be dealt with at destinations. (Hd. of M. 1835/1)

S/M positions. 0700 (Duty Captain 2000/2)

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	N.W. to W. moderate to strong.	Good in N. Mod. in S
Horns Reef.	W.N.W. strong.	Good.
Channel.	W. moderate.	Moderate.
W. Approaches.	S.W. strong.	Good.
Outlook.	Gale spreading from West.	

War Diary.

3.12.39
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. Collision when East Coast convoys were crossing near Cromer resulted in loss of one ship. (D.C.0750/4)

Danube ice. Icebrakers no use on Danube. B.2. (S.O.(I) Malta 1837/3).

Mines.
A coil lighter towed by a drifter explored a mine off Holehaven. Chart depth 6 fathoms Length of tow 300 feet. Drifter undamaged but lighter and coil were wrecked.
All ships have orders to report immediately any mines dropped by aircraft, giving positions Look-out craft employed day and night up to 3 A/S vessels 2 drifters and 2 motor patrol boats. (N.O. i/c Part A. 1155/3)
Until enemy mining situation in Thames Estuary and off east coast is clear, explosives should whenever possible be shipped from South or West coast ports. (C. in C. Nore. 2017/3)

French positions 1200 (Duty Captain 0315/3)

Contraband Control - Neutral State-owned Vessels. Neutral state-owned vessels engaged in trade, whether cargo or passengers or mails, to be treated in same way as neutral private vessels for C.C. removal of enemy materials and mails. Neutral supply ships or transports known to be employed exclusively on Government service should not be stopped unless it is necessary to establish identity. (Hd. of M. 1326/3).
791. Reference C. B. 1993 para. 9 a navycert system has been introduced for shipments from North and South America. Ships whose entire cargo is covered by navycerts and which are not carrying mails or passengers may normally be allowed to proceed direct to their destinations. Navycerts are on embassy paper signed and sealed, are to be collected and posted to M.E.W. and Flag of day given in lieu.

Control of German exports despatched on or after 4th December will be enforced gradually and list of suspicious ships will be signalled when information becomes available. Westbound ships should continue to be boarded in order to establish identity but should not be sent in unless papers show that some of cargo had been consigned by a firm in enemy or enemy-occupied territory or from an enemy port. Though unlikely to show origin of cargo this examination of papers will discourage owners from shipping enemy goods. A list of some of principal German export firms will be signalled shortly. Outward bound mails are not yet to be touched. Consignment to British or French ports will be dealt with at destination.

(V.A.N.P. 1840/3)

It is intended at some future date to detain all cargo not covered by certificates of origin. Seizure will seldom be possible before that date, but examination of papers will discourage shipping of enemy goods. Consignments to neutral

War Diary.

3.12.39
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties.

SOUTHAMPTON, leakage in several oil fuel tanks and marked increase of vibration at high speed.
WARSPITE repairs needing 12 hours.
the state of the Home Fleet destroyers is as follows:-

3rd D.F.
INGLEFIELD, defects. About to be docked at Leith.
INTREPID, IVANHOE. Refitting, complete 9/12.
IMOGEN A/S defects requires docking.
IMPERIAL. Engine defects. Complete 5/12.

4th D.F.
MOHAWK. Bomb damage. Complete approx. 9/1/40.
COSSACK. Collision repairs. Completes early January.
SIKH (at Malta) Turbine repairs. Date of completion uncertain.
GURKHA. Turbine defects.

5th D.F.
KELLY. Refit and damage repairs. Completes 12/12.
KELVIN. Collision damage. Completes 12/12. (not yet worked up)

6th D.F.
PUNJABI. Collision damage. Taken in hand. 3rd repairs 8 weeks.
ASHANTI. leaking feed tanks. Proceeding to refit now.
TARTAR. Refit and rudder repairs. Date of completion 15/12.

8th D.F.
FAME, FORESIGHT, Weather damage and refit. Complete 24/12.
FOXHOUND Refitting. Completes 11/12.
FORTUNE. Weather damage. Completion date uncertain.

Total 18 out of 40.

CHANCELLOR.
S.S. CHANCELLOR (4607 tons) in convoy from Halifax to London with cargo of cotton and timber was badly damaged collision 1201 70 miles from Halifax, taken in tow but foundered 1453/3. Crew taken on board OROPESA. homeward bound.

TARVARTNESS.
Steam trawler bound from Hull ran ashore and wrecked near Bourdon. Crew of 12 saved by rocket apparatus (C. in C. Rosyth 0140/3)

Mines
(Danish ships)
Danish ships bound for east coast can only be communicated with by Danish radio broadcasts from Copenhagen and Kallundborg at fixed hours. Is there any objection to allowing warnings to avoid dangerous areas being broadcast? (Consul Kobenhavnh to D.N.I. 1315/3)
During the past week a great many floating mines have been reported in a pronounced belt 3 miles wide from West Hinder Lt. V. 30 miles to the Eastward.

War Diary.

3.12.39
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

An enemy ship suspected of being DEUTSCHLAND SCHARNHORST or GNEISENAU has been D/F'd in position 6230 North to 13 West/2353/2. Speed is estimated 17 knots course 250 degrees HOOD and Escort is proceeding north of Faroes. 6 own AMC's are likely to be in vicinity of enemy ship. Send one Sunderland to intercept daylight 3 December. If ship not found in estimated position of interception search is to be made before returning to base before sunset. (HQCC 0305/3)

HOOD was ordered(as result of the enemy report) to proceed as fast as destroyer escort could manage without damage, and the 6 AMC's in patrol between Iceland and Faroes were ordered to proceed to the southward at 15 knots, to clear the area in the event of the unknown unit proving to be a battleship or battle cruiser.

Northern Patrol.

DEVONSHIRE and NEWCASTE are on patrol to North Eastward of the Shetlands. SUFFOLK sails for Denmark Strait.

A.M.C's.

C. in C. H.F. requested to resume control of A.M.C's as Admiralty are unaware of relative positions of NELSON and A.M.C's. For the present patrol line of A.M.C's should not be maintained unless supported. (1st S.L.1033/3)

SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD's movements. (SHEFFIELD 1936/3)

Forth neutral movements.

Prohibition approved of neutral movements between Forth Bridge and Oxcars Boom, suggested C. in C. Rosyth. 1805/17/11. Prohibition to remain in force for shortest possible period (Hd. of M. 1021/3).

Air Reconnaissance.

The usual air reconnaissance is being carried out with the following additions:-
(1) Reconnaissance by flying boat between Faroes and Iceland in area in which D/F bearings of enemy unit were obtained.
(2) Reconnaissance flown hourly from Bircham Newton to cover Dutch coast from Terschelling Lt. V. to Hook of Holland.

Air Attack on Heligoland.

At 1226 24 Wellingtons using 500 lb bombs from 7000 ft. carried out a bombing attack on 2 enemy destroyers and smaller craft at Heligoland It is claimed that both destroyers were hit. A number of enemy A/C's appeared reluctant to engage, only one, a Messerschmidt, attacked and this was shot down by our bombers. (Bomber Cmd., 1230/4 says "cruisers" but IC0288/39 says "destroyers" depth of water insufficient for cruisers.) The raid showed that no large enemy warships were in the Heligoland area at this date. (D.N.I. 1924/7)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Contd.)

S/m's. attacked 1630 MALLARD in Liverpool Bay. No result reported.

U-boat sunk By SALMON, see 10/12.

War Diary

4. 12. 39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING

Ships attacked

HORSTED sunk — 0958 — Ship mined or torpedoed in 53° 48' N. 0° 16' E. (JACKAL 0958/4). This was HORSTED (1670 tons) with cargo of coal. Sank. 4 men dead, 2 missing. She was some distance outside the swept channel off Withernsea. (D.S.) Not sinking and could be salved (JACKAL 1140/4) Appears she sailed independently (C. in C. Rosyth 0916/5). Armed. Master states "we were in convoy .... at the time of the explosion." He believed those of the men picked up dead were not drowned but choked by the lifebelts. (Interview with Master, Capt. M. Hunter).

PRIMULA sunk — 1400 — Norwegian SS. PRIMULA (1024 tons) was sunk by explosion 125 miles East of Aberdeen. Danish SS. W.T. MALLING picked up 7 survivors and brought them to Methil. Both lifeboats smashed and motor boat stuck when launched. Fear 8 men lost. Ship sank in 2 minutes. (Reuter).

S/m's. reported

1816 — Unidentified vessel using searchlight. 090 degrees 6 miles from Souter Point. (Cullercoats Radio 1830/3).

0830 — 54° 15' N. 4° 20' W. (Near East coast, Isle of Man). reported from shore. A/C investigating (IC.0289/39) (C. in C.W.A. 1031/4).

1938 — By D.F. on 8610 Kc/s, position 49° 15' N. 09° 00' W. (D.N.I. 0305/5).

1015 — One mile E. Slapton Sands Hotel near Dartmouth seen from shore. BROKE investigating. (IC.0289/39) (C. in C. W.A. 1055/4).

1530 — U-boat sighted on surface course S. Reliability uncertain, 50° 30' N. 3° 24' W. (IC. 0289/39), BROKE searched (C.in C.W.A. 1636/4).

1938 — 49 15' N. 9 W. Unreliable fix (IC.0289/39)

2200 — Fishermen report strange wake moving up Firth (F.O. Clyde 2230/4)

0917 — ESKIMO, MATABELE, ICARUS and ILEX left to search for suspected submarine in Firth of Forth (C. in C. Rosyth, 0917/4).

0300 — Heavy explosion, cause unknown, heard in posn. approx. 4 miles 310 deg. from Cape Gris Nez. (V.A. Dover, 1233/4).

North Atlantic — Spanish naval officer reports U-boat sighted three times off Rota, no dates. Belgian Consul received similar information (S.O.(I) Gib. 1602/4).

War Diary

4. 12. 39.
Monday

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING

Home Commands.

HOLSTENTOR ... ... Sailed LUNA ... ... Arrived	Oslo (1334/4).
KIEL	Loading in harbour (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1302/4).
LIVADIA	Passed Southward 1450 (V.C. Haugesund 1524/4)
TANGER	" " 1515 - do - (Both in cargo)
JOHANN .. .. BLUMENTHAL	Arrived Arendal, Norway 4/12 to load 2900 tons iron ore. Expected to take 6 days (Arundal 1046/4).
PRETORIA	Believed to be still in Germany (arrived Hamburg 16/8).
FESCHENHEIM	German ship, name unknown (FESCHENHEIM Consul Narvik 1230/5) arrived Narvik 4/12 probably for ore (Narvik 1145/4)
NIEDERWALD	Left 4/12 (Consul Narvik).

South Atlantic.

USSUKAMA	has proceeded to sea from Ingeniero White (Bahia Blanca) 1900 today 4/12 (N.A. Buenos Aires 2113/4). (R.O. Bahia Blanca 2000/4).

Mediterranean

SALZBURG	Left 2/12 for Batoum with 700 tons cotton goods in transit Iran (Constanza 2155/4).
ARKADIA	Arrived 2/12 and is loading similar cargo for same destination (- do -)

War Diary. 4.12.1939,
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force "I". Force "I" to proceed to the Cape and establish patrol to the southwards, working in conjunction with South African Air Force, and to come temporarily under orders of C.in C., South Atlantic. (1st S.L., 2042/4). This order cancelled, Force no longer required at the Cape. (D.C.N.S., 2210/8).

America and West Indies.

Canadian Convoys, R.A.3 B.S. Your 2303/3. In view of importance T.C.1 and T.C.2, consider it desirable for R.A.3 B.S. to remain at Halifax until after second troop convoy has sailed. Proposal for hoisting flag. Anxious that EFFINGHAM should return to Caribbean as soon as released from duty ordered 1525/2, to relieve ORION for refit and PERTH for fitting catapults. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1930/4).

French Co-operation. Your 2301/3. French concur in sending DUNKERQUE arriving Halifax 18th or possibly 19th Dec. Question of 6-in. cruiser still under discussion. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1912/4).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

M.02123/40. H.M.S. ACHILLES. R. of P.
22/10/39 - 4/12/39.

During her patrols in Rio area, reports of British ships leaving Rio de Janeiro and Santos never arrived in time to enable ACHILLES to meet them at sea in accordance with para. 9 of Cdre. S.A.D. 1952/25/10/39.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining permission to remain an extra 24 hours at Rio de Janeiro (10/11 to 12/11)

Oiling at sea	26/10/39 in Sanborombon Bay from R.F.A. OLWEN 23/11/39. in Sanborombon Bay from oiler OLYNTUS.	
German ships seen	At Pernambuco 3/12/39.	Unknown ship probably URUGUAY
		WOLFSBURG
	At Cabadello 2/12/39.	SAO PAULO

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Portuguese authorities report A.I. seaplane unknown nationaility sighted off Ponta Le Pargo, Madeira, 1200/4 (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1814/4)

Positions — Convoy positions etc. (D.C. 1850/4).

China

More trouble with Chinese dockyard workmen in H.M.S. MEDWAY (C. in C. China 0215 Z/4).

South Atlantic.

DEUTSCHLAND — French report that DEUTSCHLAND was off Pernambuco 2/12 (Paris (Murat) 1800/4).

? SCHWABENLAND — SS ZITELLA (British) sighted ship like SCHWAGENLAND, 19/11 in 31° 32' S. 36° 7' at 0800, 11 knots, course S.W. Argentine flag on side and word "Argentine" abaft flag. He considered her suspicious (S.O.(I) Freetown 2210/4).

Enemy s/m — Reported by fishermen 6° 40' S. 36° 55' W. Doubtful (I.C. 0293/39)

Mediterranean

Report that important Italian shipping agents at Cadiz, Seville and Barcelona are co-operating closely with Germans and shipments via Italy. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1732/S).

America and West Indies.

H X 11. — Sailing telegram (C.O. Atlantic Coast, Halifax N.S. 1301/4).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea.		
Shetlands	W. Moderate to strong	Good
Remainder	S.E. Strong to gale	Good
Horns Reef	S. Strong	Moderate
Channel	W. Moderate to strong	Good
W. Approaches	W. strong	Good
	Outlook - Similar.	

Enemy Intelligence.

Minelayer sunk German patrol vessel reported sunk by mine south of Langeland where two other German vessels were sunk recently. Reported 26 men killed.

Troop lighters Report of considerable activity in construction of special pontoon lighters with motor power, at Hamburg and Bremen. Probably reliable. (N.A. Copenhagen 1900/4).

Trawlers. Report that all German trawlers returning from Northern fishing ground come into Honningsvaag Majero Island to pick up pilot for voyage south (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1100/4).
Majority of southbound traffic pass Haugesund in afternoon or at night, probably with view of reaching Jaeder under cover of darkness. (V.C. Haugesund 1833/4).

French N.A. reports ship resembling gunnery training vessel BRUMMER or BREMSE was towed into Emden 2110/4. After part severely damaged A.I. (N.A. Hague 1806/6).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

SS. MANCHESTER REGIMENT (6000 tons) and SS. OROPESA - (14000 tons) in convoy HXF. 11 in collision. Former abandoned in sinking condition and OROPESA is returning to Halifax with damage and survivors.
SS. BOWLING (793 tons) overdue. Left Leith 19/11 for Continent (Press Bureau)

Patrols inadequate — Captain Edkin SS. GEORGIC, not satisfied adequacy of patrol intends on arrival Liverpool ask owners to request individual escort for self and British ship BRITANNIC in home waters. British ship GEORGIC with 97 passengers and very valuable cargo including airplanes reported sailed by Vesca 1/12 expected position 2200 9/12 055 05'N. 011 40' W. steering to pass 10 miles North Inishtrahull daylight 10/12 speed 17 knots. (N.C.S.O. Narvik 1701/4.

Rosyth Leakage — Leakage of information around Rosyth. Difficulties of censorship (D.N.I. 1714/4, 1901/4) L.N.E.R. giving information (S.O.I. Rosyth 1235/6).

Rumanian Decree — Rumanian decree became law 4/12, limiting size of guns which allied merchant vessels may carry on entering Rumanian ports.

Explosion — At 0300 heavy explosion, cause unknown, 4 miles N.W. of Cape Gris Nez.

Convoys. — Difficulty of getting ships to keep exactly to swept channel and adhere exactly to route ordered etc. (C. in C. Nore, 1850/4. More about difficulties (C. in C. Rosyth 1047/6).

Enemy Air Activity — Believed one or more aircraft were operating off the mouth of the Thames during night 4/5 Dec. (IC 0289/39).

C. in C. Nore — Admiral Sir Reginald Plunkett Ernle-Erle Drax relieved Admiral Sir Studholme Brownrigg as C. in C. Nore.
From Admiralty for N.C.S.Os.
Amend my 2325/21/11 to read. Begins - Ships whether in convoy or sailing independently should not normally be under way between Latitudes 51° 20' North and 52° 00' North and Longitudes 1° 12' East and 2° 05' East during dark hours. Ends. A.C.N.S. 1415/4.

Embargo — Embargo on German exports came into force midnight 4/12. Neutral ships carrying German coal to Italy are not to be diverted or detained pending further orders (D.E.W.D. 1606/4). Control of enemy exports commenced with cargoes leaving Home waters on 4/12 and Mediterranean ports on 11/12 (C. in C E.I. 0640Z/11).

Positions of submarines — 0700/4 (D.C. 1938/3).

French positions — 1200/4 (D.C.0130/4).

War Diary.

4.12.1939.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

H.M.S. NELSON, Mined.

NELSON mined entering Port A in 19 fathoms at 0752 and is now in harbour. Suggest RENOWN and REPULSE be recalled. Intend shifting flag to WARSPITE until RODNEY repaired. (E. in C., H.F., 0854/4). Request air protection (C. in C., H.F., 0948/4). WARSPITE repairs expedited. 3 A/A cruisers ordered Port A from Thames. Fighter Command asked for air protection. Extemporised sweeping arrangements being got ready. Merchant ships to act as mine bumpers. (1st S.L., 1239/4). RODNEY not to leave Clyde until decision where NELSON and RODNEY are to be docked (1st S.L., 1243/4). Arrangements made by Fighter Command, (1st S.L., 1300/4). Intend to remain in NELSON to-night (C. in C.,H.F., 1412/4). Request prohibited area for non-operational flying 12 miles radius from Port A. (N.O.I.C., Port A, 1630/4). Mine risk to C and D class cruisers and destroyers at Port A. Description of NELSON damage (C. in C., H.F., 1903/4). Casualties. Position in which mined 35° 7.3 cables from north-eastern extremity of Vamh An Tuill latitude 57° 52.26' N., longitude 05° 40.23' W. Details of damage (C. in C.,H.F., 1923/4). Pumping capacity insufficient to keep control of leakage, request salvage tug be sent Port A. (C. in C.,H.F.,2301/4). Your 2301/4, destroyer will sail from Liverpool as soon as portable pumps embarked. RANGER attending a marine casualty on Clyde is being diverted to you. (D.C., 0252/5).
Your 1903/4, mine probably a magnetic ground mine laid by U-boat. Considered C and D class cruisers immune in 18 fathoms, destroyers 15 fathoms but this not certain. Suggestions for buoying Channel and sweeping (1st S.L., 1048/5) Amend 1048/5, it is NOT considered that C and D class, etc. (D.C., 1315/5). DISPERSER with pumps, position. (F.O.C.C.O.S., 1058/5).
Four "F" class destroyers to remain with NELSON. Leaking is now under control. (C. in C.,H.F., 1422/5). Arrangements for transfer of flag and staff to WARSPITE at Greenock. (C. in C.,H.F., 1423/5). Information to C. in C.'s, Nore, Portsmouth Rosyth and W.Approaches (C.N.S., 1832/5). Details of sweeping of channel (C. in C.,H.F., 2049/5). NELSON should be ready to sail about 13/12. Estimated draught (C. in C.,H.F., 1144/6).
On RODNEY completing repairs, intend to transfer to her, certain personnel with heavy gear to join at Liverpool as soon as possible (C. in C.,H.F., 1122/8).
NELSON expected ready for sea 14/12 (NELSON, 1801/10). Orders for passage (C. in C.,H.F., 1631/19). Your 1631/19, feel fairly confident of 12 knots, propose to sail 24/12 (NELSON, 1015/20). Intensive sweeping delayed, intend sail 25/12. (NELSON, 1151/23). Destination, Portsmouth (D.C.N.S., 1839/23). When will NELSON sail from Port A (D.O.D.(H), 1238/26). Reply, On the third fine day after 31/12. (C. in C.,H.F., 1701/26).
NELSON sailed for Portsmouth at 1530. (D.C., 1958/4 Jan.)

4. 12. 39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

RODNEY in Clyde with rudder defects was to sail for Liverpool to dock as soon as tugs and escorts are available, but sailing was deferred pending decision on docking requirements for NELSON.
WARSPITE has arrived at Clyde.
DEVONSHIRE and NEWCASTLE are on patrol North East of Shetland Islands.
The A/A cruisers were sent to Port A. from the Thames, to remain whilst NELSON was in port.

Northern Patrol

The Northern Patrd was now reformed, with the exception of the patrol between Faroes and Scotland, the cruisers for which are in Port A. and awaiting minesweeping operations before leaving the port.
Movement of ships (VANP 1150/4).
The six AMC's who were ordered to proceed southward (see 3/12) are now returning to their patrol positions between the Faroes and Iceland. One more AMC. has joined them.
SHEFFIELD is on patrol between the Faroes and Iceland.
HOOD and 3 destroyers are to West of Shetlands proceeding Northwards to cover the patrol.
SUFFOLK and one AMC. are West of Shetland Islands proceeding to Denmark Strait.

Scandinavian convoy. s/m escort

Proposal for s/m to accompany escort of Scandinavian convoy not regarded favourably. (See 29/11) Risk to s/m in air attack. Would lose touch if dived. Not likely to be able to get in an attack. Would hamper a/s operations if dived in event of U-boat attack on convoy. Experience of our s/m's on passage is that they cannot continue on surface during daylight (C. in C.H.F. 1442/4)

Port A.

Your 1245/4. I have no information as to whereabouts of Port A. (N.O.i/c Humber 1606/4 to Admiralty.)

Suspicious ship

A/C V/233 sighted suspicious vessel with hatches uncovered and holed apparently empty, 1205/4, name M.V.AVANCE (Danish) in position ZGGB 4034 (Donibristle 1650/4, 1721/4, C. in C. Rosyth 1819/4).

Lulea

Not yet closed by ice (ANA Stockholm 1551/4).

Casualties

0004/4 SS. HAMSTERLEY (2160 tons) in ballast, Southend to Hartlepool in FN 48 was damaged by collision off Great Yarmouth. One man missing, remainder of crew saved. Still afloat 5/12.

NELSON

NELSON was mined at 0752/4 in the middle of the entrance to Loch Ewe in 19 fathoms of water. Ship damaged but no boilers, engines, electrical, steering or power machinery affected, 52 injured, (9 seriously).
SS. TONGARINO disabled with rudder damage 180 miles S.W. Lands End. Two destroyers from Plymouth Command were ordered to her assistance 0315/5.

War Diary. 5.12.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

NAVASOTA 1445 sunk — S.S. NAVASOTA (8795 tons) outward bound in ballast was torpedoed 50°43'N., 10°16'W., 50 miles S.W. of Fastnet. ESCAPADE picked up 35 survivors and S.S. CLANFARQUHAR picked up 10 more (1 dead) 43 missing. Bow still floating. Dangerous to navigation (ESCAPADE, 1800/5). Armed. In convoy. At 1515 ESCAPADE attacked, but there was a heavy sea running and contact was not good.

UNBEMENDI 1638 S.O.S. — Intercept from CORUNA Radio S.O.S. at 2 miles off Santander coast necessary immediate assistance (Landsend Radio 1638/5).

Incorrect information. — On a recent occasion a ship reported she was mined. Position was 50 miles in error. Another reported mined, when she had been torpedoed and shelled by S/M. Request all N.C.S.O's be asked to impress on masters of merchant vessels the importance of giving correct information. (C-in-C., Rosyth 1107/5) (see ESKDENE 2/12).

S/M's reported.

1130 — By aircraft of 224 Sqdn., position Q.S.S.Y.5050, course 140° speed 12 knots. (Aircraft 1130/5).

1445 — U-boat in position 50°43'N., 10°16'W., (D.C., 2133/5). Reliable fix (C-in-C., W.A., 1525/5).

S/M's attacked.

1130 — By a/c of 224 Squadron Duty D. 120 miles E. of Rattray Head (A/C 224 Sqn. 1135/5)dropped 3 bombs. Considered no hits were obtained. (Donibristle, 1212/5).

1200 — A/S Trawler KINGSTON ANDALUSITE carried out attack off Folkestone. Reported sunk, but V-A Dover apparently doubtful, as he ordered BOADICEA to investigate. Believed some object.

1515 — ESCAPADE and WALPOLE hunted U-boat which sank the NAVASOTA 1425. ESCAPADE attacked poor contact with no result at 1515. 50 miles S.W. of Fastnet. Ordered to continue hunt until necessary to leave to meet SLF.10 at 0800 7/12. (C-in-C., W.A.1959/5).

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

FRANKFURT	Left Ymuiden 0200 for Hamburg (C-G Amsterdam 0210/5).
BRAKE) OROTAVA) URINDI)	Left 4/12 with 805 Germans, OROTAVA with 72 Germans and with cargo of furniture, URUNDI full cargo furniture (V-C. Lilpaja 1605/5).
ASCUNCION	Narvik reports sailed last night 4/12 (D.N.I. 1648/5).
MEDEA	Has sailed from here (Oslo 1353/5).
NIEDERWALD	Sailed 4/12 (Consul Narvik 1239/5).
THESEUS	German ship believed the THESEUS passed northward 1600 (Haugeshund 147/5).
IRMGARD	Arrived with general cargo (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg, 1212/5).

America and West Indies.

Taking in water and provisions from Largs Bay and expected to sail shortly. A.2. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1745/5),

MONSERRATE) LEIPZIG) ~~RACODIS~~) MUNZE) RHAKOTIS	Reported these and 4 other cargo vessels lying at Callao. Also 3 Hamberg-Amerika passenger ships in Quayaquil and 6 in Valparaiso (Ramsgate 1735/5).

South Atlantic.

USSUKAMA scuttled.	Dutch S.S. ALPHARD reports sighting USSUKUMA 1400/5 near Bahia Blanca steering North (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 2220/5). AJAX intercepted USSUKAMA (7834 tons) 2030 (2+2)/5 in 39° 24'S 57°15'W. Scuttling action had been taken and crew were in boats before arrival of boarding party. Water already over seacock valves and condenser doors were open. Ship had bad list. Intend to try to tow. All crew 23 officers and 84 men taken on board AJAX. No passengers. (Cdre. Cmdg. S.A.D. 2050/5). Has sunk. Am transfering crew to CUMBERLAND for passage to Falkland Is, (Cdre, Cmdg. S.A.D.0355/6) Re scuttling (Cdre. S.A.D., A.W.I., 1800/6).
TACOMA) LAHN)	Expect embargo will be placed 6/12. Permit for fuel for TACOMA held up (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1850/5).

North Atlantic.

WINNETOU CORRIENTES	Reliable information confirms these two ships last reported at Las Palmas being used as auxiliaries by German Navy. (D.N.I. 1920/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS. (Contd.).

Mediterranean.

Bosphorus anti-S/M patrol.	Anti - s/m patrol in Bosphorus to be instituted after instruction in S/M hunting by British Naval expert (Sir H. K. Hugesson 800/5/12/39).

China.

TERROR II renaming.	Suggesting TERROR II be renamed to avoid confusion with TERROR (Cdre. Malaya 0403/5).

War Diary. 5.12.39.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RAMILLIES, GLORIOUS and BULLDOG to proceed to Colombo to arrive Dec. 11. RAMILLIES subsequently to proceed to Australia, DELIGHT to sail from Aden (Dec.4) for Suez where she will come under C-in-C Med. MALAYA to proceed to Malta escorted by VENDETTA and WATERHEN from Aden. C-in-C E.I. 0634/3.

America and West Indies.

HAWKINS. Arrangements for HAWKINS after rearming. To go eventually to Halifax for convoy duty. (C-in-C Portsmouth 1423/5).

HX 11 Ocean escort was REVENGE and French s/m's CASABIANCA and SFAX. (D.T.D.1747/5).

EFFINGHAM
EMERALD EFFINGHAM reports serious leak in condenser. Expects to arrive Bemuda 6/12. Adty's 1525/2, EMERALD to replace EFFINGHAM. (C-in-C A.W.I. 0128/5).

North Atlantic.

French ships. Position of French forces 1200/5 (D.C. 0403/5).

S/M supplies. Capt. of Port at Ponta Delgada reports strong suspicion cargo steamer was supplying spies off Ponta Dosmosleiros during night 4/5 December. Source AO reports flight of seaplanes sighted 1/12 flying low west of Madeira proceeding north.

South Atlantic.

Ilha Trinidad. In spite of repeated requests Brazilian authorities have not visited Ilha Trinidad. Island is under no surveillance, although it is proposed to station Marines there eventually (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1751/5).

SCHEER.
16/11 "Telegraaf" announces SCHEER held up and afterwards liberated Dutch S.S. MAPIA 16/11 south of Madagascar

S/M Port Officer Saldanha Bay reports sighted periscope 2015/5 local time. C.3. Very strong signal intercepted about 2150/5 (N.O. i/c Simonstown 2356/5).

Routeing. Instructions given by N.A. Buenos Aires for routeing and bunkering British merchant vessels often at variance with Admiralty instructions issued to C-in-C S.A. has caused considerable delays and inconvenience and complaints. To be left in hands of N.C.S.O's appointed for the purpose, who receive their instructions through C-in-C S.A. (D.T.D.1926/5)

War Diary.

5.12.1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RAMILLIES+ Troop Convoy.

Your 0652/3 and my 1932/3. Decided that RAMILLIES to proceed to Welligton to escort first New Zealand Contingent due to sail on 6th Jan., subsequently joining Australian Convoy leaving Sydney about 10th Jan. (D.O.D.(F), 1302/5). My 1302/5. Amended programme proposed for RAMILLIES (C. in C., E.I., 1044Z/6). Your 1302/5. Would prefer RAMILLIES proceed to Auckland because of facilities there. (Navy Office, Wellington, 1701/6).

Australia.

Troop Convoy.

Your 2050/2. Details requested of ships allotted for first contingent. (Australian Naval Board to D. of S. T., Admiralty, 1845/5). Employment of ORION, STRATHALLAN, and THEMISTOCLES. (Australian Naval Board to D. of S.T., 2145/5)(D. of S.T., 0204/6, 2036/6).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea Northern Area.	E. strong.	Good
Southern Area	S.W. Mod.	Moderate to poor
Horns Reef.	S. Moderate	Good, showers.
Channel	S.W. strong	Poor
S. Approaches.	W. Gale.	Moderate to good.

Outlook. No great change during day.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Adty. broadcasting two German minefields off Scottish coast published by Danish Admiralty. One minefield off Seaham not being broadcast, at request (N.A. Oslo 1600/5).

Coal for Denmark. B.2. Germans intend to stop all coal cargoes from England to Denmark whenever possible (N.A. Copenhagen 1145/5).

Finno-Russian War.

OLIVA German ships stopped by Russian S/M in Gulf of Finland. Allowed to proceed. Taking German refugees to Germany. Warning shots fired. Not hit. (Press).

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.).

Suspicious ships.	Suspicious Belgian trawler seen by SARONTA (trawler) 1530/4 Duncansby Head, 6 miles (F.O. Humber 1900/8). Other reports (C-in-C W.A. 2029/5, Capt. D. Milford Haven 1023/5). Suspicious merchant ship loitering near swept channel off St. Abbs Head 0200 (C-in-C Rosyth 0312/5 to CALCUTTA).
DEUTSCHLAND	Trawler CHALCEDONY arrived 5/12 reported sighting 28/11 in 66°42'N 13°10'W warship resembling DEUTSCHLAND steering E.S.E. (N.O. i/c Humber 1735/5).
Kirkwall	Shortage of water. Ships detained using salt water in boilers. (N.O. i/c Kirkwall 1700/5, A.C.O.S 1936/6). Second water boat to proceed from Scapa to Kirkwall forth with (Adty.1936/6).
Convoys.	Owing to further change of convoy programme R.A.F. Liaison Officers to join escorts every other day only (Capt.(D) Rosyth 1402/5).
Navigation Lights.	Dimmed navigation lights to be burned on very dark nights etc., in certain places (D.T.D.1925/5).
Casualties.	EFFINGHAM serious leak in starboard condenser. See A.W.1.
Norwegian crews	Sinking of S.S. ARCTURUS is leading to difficulties with seamen who are likely to refuse to sail in unescorted ships. At present maintaining fresh fish traffic to England. Traffic is absolutely imperative. What protection can be given etc. (N.C.S.O Bergen 1800/5).
Vescar telegrams.	Arrangements are being made as from 6th December for outward Vescar telegrams to be sent to Intelligence Centres abroad. It will no longer be necessary to report sailings of important vessels. (D.T.D. 1132/5. to N.C.S.O. London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Southampton).
Routeing	My 1836/30/11. No southbound vessels are to be routed to Southend unless bound for Thames or Medway. Vessels required to join OA convoys are to be routed to Downs and are to join convoy as it passes. (A.C.N.S. 1112/5).
British S/M's positions.	0700/5 (D.C.1924/4).

War Diary. 5.12.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON at Port A reported at 1420 that leaks were under control. WARSPITE and RODNEY are in the Clyde. HOOD is on patrol North of the Faroes and providing cover for AMC's on Northern Patrol.

Port A defence. CURLEW placed at disposal of Fighter Command for Port A defence. (Air Min. 1210/5). To proceed to Invergordon where she is required for R.D/F duties (Adty D.O.D.(H) 1254/5) Delayed until after 6/12 (C-in-C Nore 1242/5).

Norwegian Convoy. The Norwegian convoy of 7 ships escorted by 4 destroyers sailed from Forth of Forth at 1600/5. GLASGOW and EDINBURGH providing cover, HOOD and 4 destroyers distant cover. Off Orkneys 2015/6 (D.C.2015/6).

Northern Patrol.
(1) Seven AMC's on patrol between Faroes and Iceland
(2) SHEFFIELD on patrol to Eastward of AMC patrol line acting as close cover.
(3) HOOD and 3 destroyers are North of Faroes providing distant cover.
(4) SUFFOLK is proceeding East of Iceland and LAURENTIC West of Iceland to patrol the Denmark Strait.

Air Reconnaissance. All normal patrols known. In addition, easterly searches from the latitude of Sunderland and Bridlington are being sent out to Long. 5'E.

Enemy Air Activity. Between 2100/5 and 0600/6 there was considerable air activity off the East coast. Fighter Command reported 16 "X" raids varying from one to more than 3 a/c's, and the escorts of both North and South bound East Coast convoys reported being shadowed. Fighters were sent up where possible, but were hampered by low mist and no results were reported. These raids covered the coast from Thames Estuary to Humber. It would appear from the tracks of one raid that the a/c's were making use of both Knoll and Haisborough Lights to fix their positions. Both of these lights are burning at reduced visibility.

Enemy mining. A merchant vessel reported seeing a mine dropped near Outer Bar buoy (off Sheerness).

Corton Road and Sheerness closed. Reliably reported that at 2100 and 2145 two a/c's without lights were operating separately near Corton Roads (5 miles south of Yarmouth). Mines reported by a coast watcher to have fallen in Corton Roads inner channel (Lowestoft.) A Q.Z. signal was made at 0435/6 closing Corton Roads inner Channel. The port of Sheerness was also closed.

War Diary. 6.12.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Cont.)

S/ms. Attacked.

1253 Contact position 52° 13'N., 1° 52½'E. Target stationary. Single charge attack. Oil rose 40 minutes. Attacked with 5 charges. Continuing to investigate. (Capt.(D)1, 1253/6). Pieces of sodden timber seen. Probable target is a wreck (Capt.(D) 1, 1404/6). Target remains stationary. Oil continues to rise. Am proceeding No.1 Patrol (Capt. (D)1,1527/6)

1035 A/S trawler LOCH TULLA attacked contact in position 105° 14.4 miles from Sule Skerry, Large air bubble seen, no oil (F.O.C.O.S. 2001/6)

1252 GRENVILLE attacked S/M 18 miles S. by E. Orfordness Oil rose to surface for 40 minutes.

War Diary.

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Cont.)

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War Diary.

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING

Ships Attacked:

H.M.Tr.WASHINGTON 1032 Sunk. — H.M.Trawler WASHINGTON (209 tons) was sunk by explosion, probably a mine, off Caister, Norfolk. So far, one survivor picked up, one was ashore, 7 lost. (Yarmouth 1032/6) (D.C.2016/6) Traffic in the area was stopped.

PARALOS. 0930 Sunk. — Greek S.S.PARALOS (3435 tons) sunk (? mine) 2 miles E.N.E. Tongue Lt.V. Cargo - German coal from Antwerp to Piraeus. Not in convoy. 3 killed, 22 survivors landed at Southend, 10 injured (4 were stretcher cases). Ship broke in two. Chief officer and 2 men killed (N.C.S.O.,Southend,1915/6) Two injured not expected to live.

OVE TOFT Sunk. — Danish S.S. OVE TOFT (2135 tons) sunk (? mine) in North Sea. 6 drowned, 15 survivors, Not in convoy. 55° 36'N., 0° 46' W. (Kalundborg Radio, 2100/6.)

BRITTA 2030 Sunk. — Norwegian S.S.BRITTA, tanker (6814 tons) torpedoed 50 miles S.W. of Lands End. In ballast to Curacao. Not in convoy. (D.C.W.A. 0827/7) 25 crew picked up by Belgian trawler MEMLINC, 6 missing. (Customs, Penzance, 1620/7)

S/ms. Reported.

0516 — On surface near No.5 "A" Channel buoy off Lowestoft. Capt.(D) 1 ordered to hunt, using high speed in case area is mined. (C. in C., Nore 0644/6).

2334 — By D.F. on 4850 Kcs., unknown enemy unit. Unreliable fix. Possibly aircraft (D.C.0005/7)

2220 — By D.F. bearing, enemy unit in vicinity 68° 30'N, 08° 00'W. Position unreliable (C.in C.W.A. 2242/6)

1014 — German unidentified naval unit located in area bounded by 53° 30'N. and 54° 30'N., 06° 00'E. and 07° 00' E. between 1014 and 1143 (D.N.I.1205/6)

0644 — S/M on surface near No.5 a Channel buoy off Lowestoft (C.in C. Nore 0644/6, Capt. (S)3, 0934/6, 1242/6.)

0624 — Presumed S/M sighted by trawler on surface near Yarmouth.

S/ms. Attacked ...

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

Unknown ships similar to Soviet ships passed south bound 1115 (Tromso 1255/6)

OLDENBURG — Departure 0001/6 loaded with ore (Narvik 1804/6)

REINHART-L-M-RUSS. — Sailed (Oslo 1557/6)

VIOLA — Has arrived (do.).

KREUTZFELD HEINHOJER — Reliability probable, passed Little Belt 5/12 bound south . First since mines laid (N.A.Copenhagen 1850/6)

HERCULES — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 160/6).

NORDWEST — Arrived with general cargo Kiel unloading pig iron (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 160/6)

ARAUCA — Sailed from Vera Cruz 23/11 due at patrol lines about 7/12 (F.O.C.N.P. to N.P.0006/6)

OLDENSO — Sighted 1100/6 in JBCT 1003 180 (Donibristle 0155/7)

OLIVA — See Enemy Intelligence.

South Atlantic.

BAHIA BLANCA — 8559 tons, sailed from Rio de Janeiro 1730/6, cargo manganese ore and coffee (S.O.(1) Montevideo 2130/6)

HAMELIN — Tampico reports she returned to Vera Cruz 5/12 (had been supplying COLUMBUS) (S.O.(1) Kingston 1538/6).

LAHN — At Montevideo. Embargo placed on cargo 6/12, armed guard now aboard. (S.O.(1) Montevideo 2130/6).

TACOMA — Will obtain oil fuel 7/12 a.m. and may sail p.m. A.1. (S.O.(1) Montevideo 2337/6).

North Atlantic.

WINNETOU } CORRIENTES) — Both ships still anchored in open roadstead at entrance to harbour (B.C.Las Palmas 1105/6).

China.

NAUMBURG — At Sourabaya 27/10 reported painted to resemble Dutch ship of Kerk Line. B.2. (S.N.B.O. Suez Canal area 1744/6)

War Diary. 6. 12. 1939,

FOREIGN STATIONS. Wednesday.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Raider may be working to northward. Undesirable to leave Freetown Pernambuco area weakly guarded, and Force "K" should return Freetown, keeping westward of area covered by Force "H". (C.N.S., 0122/6).

Estimate of situation, and proposed arrangements. (C. in C., S.A., 1043/6).

SEVERN (see 29/11). Overhauls necessary before SEVERN sails on extended detached service being taken in hand, and SEVERN will sail for Falklands not later than Monday, 11/12. (C. in C., S.A., 0955/6).

Australia, New Zealand.

Troop Convoy. Proposals for movement first New Zealand Brigade Group. (D. of S.T., 2349/6.)
RAMILLIES can proceed Auckland instead of Wellington, date remaining unchanged. (C. in C., E.I., 1044/6, 0551/7).

Transport Arrangements:--
(Australian Naval Board, 1650/7), 1200/8, D. of S.T., 1850/8, Australian Board, 1600/9, 2247/12, New Zealand Naval Board, 1456/13, Australian Naval Board, 0500Z/13, 0630Z/14).

America and West Indies.

Canadian Troop Convoy. Your 1525/2. Dept. of National Defence agree forces mentioned are adequate and concur method of execution. Very grateful. (C.N.S.,Ottawa, 1000/6).
Confirmed that French DUNKERQUE and GLOIRE will be available. (D.O.D.(F), 1959/6).

Admiralty 1525/2. Question of detaching fast ships with Force L. (F.O.C.3 B.S., 1116/6).

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Batum mined. Turkish Military Attache reports outskirts of Batum has been mined by Russians (N.A.Moscow 1055/6)

South Atlantic.

German warship. Report that German warship was sighted off coast of Cabedello 5/12.
No further details obtainable (S.O.(1) Montevideo 1306/6, 1732/6, 1955/7, D.N.I. 0338/7, D.C. 0335/7) Warship was British (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1211/12)

SCHEER. Report that she had fuelled. Suspect planted information (N.A.Buenos Aires 1200/6) See also his 1945/22/11 and 1050/30/11. (Latter signal was B3, USSUKUMA not to sail until further orders, stay ready, DEUTSCHLAND waiting; also indecipherable re SCHEER)

Prisoners. Too many German prisoners at Falkland Is. Propose to ship them all (140) to Simonstown in EXETER (Cdr.Cmdg. S.A.D.A.W.I. 1108/6).
Concur subject to approval of Union Govt. (C.in C. S.A. 1303/8) Union Govt. agreed (N.O. I/C. Simonstown 1246/11)

Following overdue ships now considered as losses (Min. of Shipping.):-

ASHLEA (4222 tons) cargo 7115 tons sugar.
NEWTON BEECH (465 tons) cargo 7080 tons maize.
TREVANION (5299 tons) cargo 8697 tons zinc concentrates.
HUNTSMAN (8196 tons) cargo Manganese ore, pig iron, gunnies and general.

GERMAN ...

War Diary.

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

French positions. 1200/6. (D.C.0238/6)

Convoy etc. positions. D.C.1916/6.

Leakage at Madeira. Further information (Consul, Funchal 1616/6)

CARVALHO ARAUJD — If destroyer available desirable to remove Germans from this ship. (N.A. to D.C.N.S.1735/6). Due to leave Lisbon 1600/6. Carries approximately 40 German civilian officer passengers in transit, apparently Naval Reservists on way from U.S.A. to Germany (Consul, Funchal 1818/6.)

East Indies.

CAPE ST.ANDREW. — Reported 5 days overdue, arrived Jibuti 6/12.

Warship sighted. Blevec lighthouse 17°7'S. 49°48'E. reports having seen a warship camouflaged by artificial smoke screen with a seaplane 1400/4. Force I informed 1800 Z/15. (C. in C. E.I. 1039 Z/6) Information unreliable C. in C. E.I. 1339 Z/7.)

America and West Indies.

Panama Canal Traffic. Average some 200 British and French ships pass through Panama Canal Daily to 13 of all neutral countries.(Jap.diplomatic cable intercepted.

China.

Japanese wish to build warships for U.K. Japanese suggestion that Britain should place orders for warships with Japanese civil dockyards. Might give us valuable entry into Japanese dockyards for purpose of overseeing work in progress (N.A. Tokyo 1531/6)

Russian S/Ms for Germany. Reports of suspected transfer of U.S.S.R. s/ms to Germany have originated independantly from Rome, Shanghai, Copenhagen, Manila. Suggest H.M. Ships and merchant vessels be warned of potential danger in areas North of Hong Kong (C. of S. Far East, Singapore 1031 Z/6)
Further indications of some action (by merchant vessels) in near future (COSTERROR 0903 Z/6)
Consider it more probable the German personnel sent to Far East was destined for raiders and supply ships. However, A/S equipment is being fitted in remaining destroyers and FALMOUTH (C. in C. China 0216 Z/7)

War Diary.

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Operations against Danish food ships. German trawlers and destroyers reported to be operating against Danish food ships near Esbjerg and Skaw. Danish ships probably cross North Sea on parallel 57°50'N. (D.C.1618/6). Beginning of attempt to strangle British-Danish trade outward and inward (N.A.Copenhagen 1815/6) Danish food ship for Grimsby was arrested outside Esbjerg this a.m. and taken to Germany. Probably other vessels are near Skaw to arrest ships from East coast of Denmark. (N.C.S.O. Esbjerg 1500/6, 1615/6, Kobenhavn, 1510/6.)

Danish ships seized. p.m. 6/12 Danish foodship ALEXANDRA was intercepted off Esbjerg by 2 armed trawlers and taken to Germany during the night by 3 destroyers. (See also 9/12) Constant air patrol on this coast. Constant patrol in Slugen, trawlers by day, destroyers by night. All ships thoroughly searched, empty ships allowed to enter. No arrest yet elsewhere (N.C.S.O. Esbjerg 1218/8) Latvian GAISMA was seized in Baltic 5/12 and detained at Swinemunde.

U-Boat crews. Announced that difficulty of finding crews for U-boats is solved by employing soldiers who volunteered for this service. (Bremen in Dutch 2040/6).

a/c mine-laying. Reported that when distributing bombs or mines efforts will be made to distract attention from low flying minelaying planes by the presence of high flying reconnaissance planes. (Mr. O'Malley, Budapest 248/6)

FENNO-SOVIET WAR.

OLIVA shelled by U.S.S.R. S/m. Reported that Soviet s/m engaged on blockade of Finnish coast shelled German S.S.OLIVA (1308 tons) 1145 off Vtö. Ship is reported to have arrived, badly damaged by gunfire, at Manty Luoto in Gulf of Bothnia 7/12.

Swedish minefield. Norwegian Admiralty announced at 1025/6 that the Swedes have laid a minefield in the Sodera Kvarken inside Swedish territorial waters (in the Straits between Sweden and Aaland Is.)

FOREIGN ...

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS. (CONT.)

Mine Clearance. Re-magnetic sweep and clearance of channel (D.M.S. 1254/6.)

Nore movements. Expected movements in Nore command for next 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 0704/6)

Routeing. "Your 1015/30. Neutral vessels bound through Straits of Dover should be ordered to Falmouth and those bound Northabout to Kirkwall for onward routeing instructions." D.T.D.1914/6.

Convoys. Positions of convoys in Western Approaches etc. 2000/6. (A.C.W.A.1311/6).

British S/ms.' positions. 0700/6. D.C. 2027/5. Two-thirds of our available S/ms. are operating in the North Sea.

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility	Weather	Outlook.
North Sea.	N.5-7	4-8 miles	Showers	Wind moderating
Channel.	N.W.4-6	6-10 "	Fine	" "
W.Approaches.	N.2-4	20 "	Fine	" "
Horns Reef.	E.3-5	2-4 "	Drizzle	Improving.

Enemy Intelligence.

Warship damaged. It is reported that a German warship, probably a gunnery training vessel was towed into Emden 4/12 in a badly damaged condition. (N.A.Hague 1806/6P.

Mineleying. Source in my opinion reliable learns that mines being laid near coast of U.K. are not being laid by s/ms. nor a/cs., but by small, low, very fast surface craft which carry mines hung round their sides. Germans intend to block our ports by laying strings of mines chained together in navigable channels.

c.f. report of Master of Italian GRAZIA, mined 19/11, which states that in his opinion the vessel was struck by 3 mines linked together by lengths of wire 100 ft. long.

S/m production. Reported, further, that s/m production in Germany now at rate of one a day grading B.5. (N.A.Rome 1114/6).

Norwegian coast routes. Further details in reply to Adty.1746/29 (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1250/6).

Operations ...

War Diary.

6.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. C. in C. Home Fleet left Port A. 1200/6 to join WARSPITE in Clyde. Admiralty assumed control from 0800/6 to midnight 6/12.
Salvage ships RANGER and WARWICK with pumps arrived at Port A.

Northern Patrol. Faroes to Iceland, seven A.M.Cs. and SHEFFIELD.
In Denmark Strait. One A.M.C. and SUFFOLK.
BERWICK proceeding to Northern Patrol.

Force W. Force W. escorted by 6 destroyers left Belfast 0600/6 for Rosyth.

Air Reconnaissance. The usual air patrols and escorts are being flown.

Enemy air activity. Considerable air activity, both mine dropping and reconnaissance over North Sea. At 1025 a/cs. were seen to drop 3 mines off Haisborough and further mines were dropped at 1045 north of Outer Dowsing Lt. V. Reconnaissance machines were reported near Scapa, Spurn Pt. and Skegness, and the Norwegian Convoy was shadowed. Two Dornier machines were attacked and damaged, one 60 miles North pf Terschelling and another 150 miles East of Aberdeen. Press report that RIVER LESSIE and another trawler were gunned by German a/c a.m. off Aberdeen and another, WHINNINGFIELD early p.m. 7/12. No casualties or damage.

Casualties.

WASHINGTON — H.M.Trawler WASHINGTON (209 tons) was sunk by explosion, apparently a mine, off Caister, Norfolk at 1032. So far one survivor picked up; 7 lost. (See U-Boat Campaign.

Unknown ship in Falmouth harbour with cargo 3000 to 4000 tons coal on fire (Press)

Danish S.S.EGYPTIAN REEFER grounded in fog night 6/7 Dec. on West coast of Scotland. One seaman injured. Later refloated to anchorage (Press Bureau.)

Mine ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Contd.)

Ships Reported

1900 Skipper of drifter SWALLOW reports observed s/m on surface 40 miles south of Abderdeen. S/m shone a searchlight on drifter then disappeared (C. in C. Rosyth, 0832/8)

0653 A boat in position 49.09 N., 4.51 W. G.M.T. (D.N.I. 0901/7) French report (Brest Radio 1343/7).

0200 Damaged German s/m 500 ton type escorted by destroyers sighted 4 miles off Texel steering N.E. (N.A. Hague, 0912/7) (V.A. Dover, 0910/7).

0705 Submerged s/m reported by French armed trawler in 36° 45' N. 7° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1045/7).

1700 Reported by Swedish SOLSTAD 5' E. of Berwick, on surface (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1911/8).

Prospective Raids Report has been received that a number of U-boats may be leaving Wilhemshaven 9th or 10th December for raiding (D.N.I. 2051/7).

s/m's attacked JUNO and JACKAL carried out attacks, results not ascertained after JERSEY had been torpedoed off Humber. (F.O. Humber 2323/7).

War Diary

7. 12. 1939.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

TAJANDOEN sunk	0600.	Dutch SS. TAJANDOEN (8159 tons) torpedoed R.M.B.C. 0909 about 0600/7. 62 survivors picked up, 6 missing. Hunt for U-boat in latter vicinity. (A.C.W.A. 0827/7). Belgian SS. LOUIS SHED picked up majority of survivors (see below) and later ran ashore in thick weather off Start Pt. bearing from Land's End Radio 08h0 deg. from Niton Radio 257 and from Ushant 021.5 (Niton 1930/7). Ship is bumping badly and weather is poor and all survivors of TAJANDOEN landed. ~~NAALDWIJK~~ searched 2 hours in vain for 6 missing of crew TAJANDOEN, sighted 4 burned lifeboats and much wreckage. (Lands End Radio 1226/7). 48 crew and 14 passengers picked up. 6 crew still missing. Not in convoy.
		NAALDWIJK ^
JERSEY damaged	0235	See Casualties, Home Commands.
VINGA sunk		Swedish steamer VINGA, 1200 tons sunk in North Sea by explosion. Crew of 21 saved by Danish TRANSPORTER, 1561 tons. (D.S., 8/12).
LITHIUM escaped	1255	Attacked by gunfire 5 miles S.W. of Cossewall bound Lochryan (Port Patrick Radio, 1351/7).
	1400	H.M.S. WOLVERINE and H.M.S. VERITY with damaged ship in approx. position 48° 55' N. 09° 16' W. (C. in C.W.A. 1516/7)
SCOTIA sunk	2359	Danish Collier SCOTIA sunk in 57° 31' N. 02° 17' E. Danish HAFNIA on arrival Methil 10/12 reports she was close to SCOTIA when sunk. When searching unsuccessfully for survivors observed small submarine also apparently searching. S/m did not approach or attack HAFNIA, who left position on sighting submarine (C. in C. Rosyth 1708/10).
Emden mine Depot		French agent reports that mine depot exists in the high seas fishery shed at Emden, from which minelayers are regularly loaded. A little white steamer plies Emden and Borkum transporting mines and other material to the latter, whose minelayers are also loaded. (N.A., Hague, 1747/7).
Mines in Holland		Dutch Naval Authorities inform that description of so-called magnetic mines with tentacles reported Dutch Press is untrue. One very large British mine has been recovered. VADERLAND reports that between Ymuiden and Hook of Holland 60 mines have been washed ashore during past few days, of which 56 were British. (N.A. Hague, 1614/7)

War Diary

7. 12. 39.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

KIEL NORDEN	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg (1454/7)
HINDENBURG	Passed southward 1550 in cargo (V.C.Haugesund 1622/7).
SEBU	Left Tromso southbound during night 6/7 December (D.N.I. 1303/7)(Tromso 0945/7)
KRONOS	Arrived (Oslo 1534/7).
	4 German merchant ships reported proceeding East between Hornboro and Okso outside territorial waters and one German ship proceeding South of Lister also outside territorial waters 5/12 (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/7)

South Atlantic

TACOMA	Reliably informed, A.1., she will obtain oil fuel a.m. 7/12 and may sail p.m. 7/12 (S.O.(I) Freetown, Sierra Leone 2238/7). Not yet commenced sailing (S.O.(I)Montevideo advised (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 0840/7).
LAHN LOSHAN	LAHN is expected alongside LOSHAN presumably to discharge embarked cargo (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2315/7).
WINDHUR	Arrived Santos 7/12, (S.O.(I) Freetown 2040/7, D.N.I. 2315/7)
GOSLAR	At Paramaribo. Raising steam apparently ready to sail (S.O.(I) Kingston 1915/7).

America & West Indies.

COLUMBUS	Reliably reported, A.1. about to sail from Vera Cruz Mexico (D.C.0057/8, N.A. Washington 1112/7) German ship, presumed 255, at Paracaribo, raising steam, apparently ready to sail (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0915/7).

North Atlantic

WINNETOU CORRIENTES	Still anchored at entrance to Las Palmas harbour 6/12 (D.N.I. 0902/7).
RIO DE JANEIRO	Loading resin, hides etc. working overtime; considered "Rotterdam" (Vigo 1902/7).
WANGONI USARAMO	WANGONI transferring 20 lift vans to USARAMO which is at present in ballast (do)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoy.	My 2317/27/11. CRONSAY to replace DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. Request whether sailing date second flight 21/12 can still be maintained (D. of S.T.,2316/7).
DUNKERQUE	My 1959/6. British signal officer and cypher officer will communication ratings embarking in DUNKERQUE. (D.C.D.(F), 1255/7).
Route.	My 1525/2. Route for convoy, and times for passing positions. (D.C.N.S., 2308/7).
	My 1525/2 and 2308/7. Rendezvous No. 3 (to be used as alternative to No. 2 if desirable on account of weather). (D.C.N.S., 2312/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions 1200/7 (D.C. 0112/7) s/m's exercising (C. in C. N.A. 1532/7).

British " D.C. 1842/7.

South Atlantic

R.N.V.R.(S. Africa) - More about their employment (C. in C.S.A. 1245/7).

Warship sighted Fairly reliable report that warship was sighted whilst fuelling off Mamanguape Point (between Pernambuco and Natal, Brazil) 5/12. This would not be ACHILLES (C. in C. S.A. 1035/7)

STREONSHALH Sunk by GRAF SPEE 1630/7 23° S. 27° 50' W. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires No.T.O.O. Rec. 1345/17).

China

S/m's crews. Reported German crews for 25 s/m's. are proceeding to Vladivostock to man s/m's sold by Russia for German. BO. (1023/7).

East Indies.

MALOJA To join Northern Patrol (C. in C.E.I. 0703Z/7)

MALAYA Intended programme of MALAYA, GLORIOUS, RAMILLES (MALAYA 0528Z/7). Request permission to use RANCHI to shell evacuated village in co-operation with air bombardment (N.O.i/c Aden 1459Z/6) Impolitic to use H.M. ships for punitive bombardment (C. in C.E.I. 0704Z/7, 0659Z/7)

Force I. Force I. to sail 0900 Z 8/12 to arrive Simonstown 18 knots p.m. 13/12. EAGLE 5 to 7 days boiler cleaning, GLOUCESTER 7 days, CORNWALL 4 days' rest (C. in C. E.I. 1103Z/7)

Mediterranean.

French positions S.O.(I) Gib. 0947/7.
Depth charges dropped off Europa Pt., Gibraltar p.m. at supposed s/m. Later report of s/m proved unfounded (Press).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

If they were already in a neutral port they stayed there. Instructions were given to sink the ship if capture appeared unavoidable. (M.O.16218/39. Escape of German vessels to neutral ports on outbreak of war. Report of arrangements made by German government.)

Patrol off Christian Sands

Master of Norwegian SS. PORAN regularly carrying coal from England reports there is a regular German Warship patrol approx. 20 miles off Christian Sands usually Cruisers sometimes Destroyers, about 2 weeks ago. A pocket battleship also a frequent and active Air Patrol. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1705/7).

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

It is credibly reported that one Soviet destroyer has been sunk by Finnish shore batteries and one damaged, in addition to the damage to the KIROV.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Weather

0500

North Sea ..	.. Light or moderate westerly winds. Much coastal fog in South, otherwise visibility good.
Channel East	.. Light Northerly wind. Poor visibility with coastal fog.
West	.. Light southerly wind. Good visibility, Fair.
Western Approaches	.. Fresh to strong South wind. Visibility good deteriorating in rain later.
Horns Reef	.. Light westerly wind. Visibility good but local coastal mist.
Outlook ..	.. Strong south winds in the West, reaching gale force locally.

Enemy Intelligence.

Warships off Texel

At 0200/7 French fishermen off the Texel reported 2 destroyers and a s/m possibly damaged steering south. This report was not received at Admiralty from N.A. Hague until 0915/7 and air searches sent out to locate this force found nothing (Chatham 0940/7, Donibristle 1010/7).

Mine Depot

At Emden; position. Minelayers regularly loaded there (N.A. Hague 1747/7).

Norwegian ship stopped

Norwegian BORGNY with 2800 tons of oil for Stockholm was stopped 3/12 north of Kalmar on Swedish coast by German patrol vessel who fired two shots across vessel's bows. Ship was 2½ miles off shore. Understood that German Captain's instructions were to stop all oil supplies reaching Finland regardless of territorial waters restrictions. A.1. (N.A. Oslo 1200/7).

Raiders.

Report from ex-member of crew of CITY OF FLINT that many German merchant ships in Murmansk are being fitted out as raiders (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1707/7).
Probable that fast naval tankers of DITHMARSCHEN class are being used to fuel raiders.
WESTERWALD of same class reported armed with 3 - 6 inch and several A.A. guns (DNI. 1313/7, Adty. General Mge. 865 A.) Should not these be regarded as Naval auxiliaries and treated as warships when encountered? (C. in C.E.I. 1142Z/13)

Orders for German merchant shipping on outbreak of war

For some months before the war all Captains of German merchant vessels received sealed orders to be opened after certain phrases had been included in the German broadcast. Certain words announced in the broadcast represented a code. The first warning broadcast in this way instructed German captains at sea or in foreign ports to listen to the broadcast at certain days and at certain hours. On 25/8 the final warning was broadcast, sealed orders were opened and ships left British or French ports for the ports of refuge indicated in the sealed orders.

War Diary.

7.12.1939,
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

JERSEY, torpedoed.

At 0235/7, JUNO reported JERSEY struck by torpedo. Position 0332/7, 4 miles S.E. of Cromer Knoll Light. At 0412/7, JERSEY reported not in danger of sinking and endeavouring to gain control of fire. Visibility in river, Nil. JACKAL passed Spurn Point 0600/7 going to assistance of JERSEY reports visibility one mile. JANUS remaining in harbour until visibility improves. (F.O.I.C., Humber, 0801/7). Request air escort for JERSEY and search for enemy submarine (C. in C.,Nore, to A.O.C., 16 Group, 0914/7).
Am screening JERSEY in tow of JUNO, 6 knots. JANUS not yet in company. Patches of surface fog, clear overhead. Request tugs to release JUNO, also A/S trawlers to strengthen screen. (JACKAL, 0940/7).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

escort vessels should continue to be based on Rosyth. Owing to lack of stores, ammunition, suitable oiling arrangements and work shops at Tyne, ships are spending several hours steaming unnecessarily about the river. Boiler cleaning is delayed and ships deteriorating rapidly in efficiency. (C. in C., Rosyth 1000/7). Decided to base these vessels on Rosyth (Adty. 1615/7). Consequent movements (Capt.(D) Rosyth Escort Force 1643/7)

Embargo — Swedish SS. MERTAINEN (4531 tons) from Antwerp with German coal for Gothenburg; need not be diverted or detained (D.E.W.D. 1413/7)

Western Approaches — Disposition of forces at 1800/7 (C. in C.W.A. 1905/7).

New shipping — During the 13th week of the war one new tanker of 2000 tons and 3 other vessels of 11,000 total tonnage have been brought into commission. Two ships of a tonnage of 3,000 have been adapted for ocean going, making a total of 6 ships of 16,000 gross tonnage for the week. The average weekly increment since war began has been 5 ships of a tonnage of 25,000 tons against as average loss of 7 ships with a tonnage of 26,000 tons.

Salutes — During hostilities no salutes to be fired in ports in U.K., France and adjacent waters. Ceremonial parade of King's Colour and Dressing will be dispensed with. In British territories and protectorates abroad S.N.O. to consult H.M. Representative. In neutral ports continue normal ceremonial as far as possible. In no case will salutes be fired if they interfere with operational requirements. (Hd. of M. 1014/7).

Convoys — Sailing of F.N. 251. held up for present owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 0709/7). Situation report of ocean convoys 2000/7 (A.C.W.A.1301/7)

Sailings interrupted. — Owing to fog sailings from the Downs were interrupted for most of the day and there are now (0800/7) 80 ships in the area. Air authorities were informed of this concentration of shipping.

Shipping must be kept moving. — Carrying power of British merchant shipping severely reduced by institution of convoy and requisitioning. Shipping in general continues to move and enter ports by night. No delays must be imposed unless necessary (Ass. Sec.1st S.L. 1315/7).

S/m's. positions — 0700/7. (D.C. 1933/6).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

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Convoys — Sailing of F.N. 51. held up for present owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 0709/7). Situation report of ocean convoys 2000/7 (A.C.W.A.1301/7)

Sailings interrupted. — Owing to fog sailings from the Downs were interrupted for most of the day and there are now (0800/7) 80 ships in the area. Air authorities were informed of this concentration of shipping.

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S/m's. positions — 0700/7. (D.C. 1933/6).

War Diary.

7. 12. 39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

C. in C. H. F. flag transferred from NELSON to WARSPITE (at Clyde).
NELSON expected to sail from Port A about 13/12.
CAIRO left Scapa for Port A 1400/7.
HOOD with 4 destroyers is north of the Faroe Is. to cover the homeward bound Norwegian convoy H.N. 4.
The outward bound Norwegian convoy O.N.4 is escorted by GLASGOW, EDINBURGH and 4 destroyers.
RODNEY escorted by 6 destroyers and 2 tugs left Clyde p.m. and expects to arrive Liverpool 0800/8.

Northern Patrol

Between Faroes and Iceland 1 cruiser and 7 A.M.C's.
In Denmark Strait one cruiser and one A.M.C.

Force W.

Force W. is West of Skye (0730/7) escorted by 6 destroyers.

Air Reconnaissances

All normal patrols flown.

Enemy Air Activity

Considerable. 8 enemy a/c's. were intercepted when South of Aberdeen and proceeding towards Rosyth by two sections of fighters. Their formations were broken up and chased seaward with damage to 2 enemy a/c's. Between 2100/7 and 0100/8 there were twelve raids by low lying a/c's. between Lowestoft and North Foreland. One a/c flew low over Harwich harbour and dropped mines in the entrance but again fire was not opened by the shore batteries. Trawler RIVER LOSSIE was gunned without damage or casualties (Press)

Harwich closed

Harwich is now closed to traffic. The port was swept for magnetic mines without result and was reopened 9/12.

Destroyer patrol

Destroyer to patrol daily from 0900 to 1500 along line of 127 QZ. from position X. to position Q. to cover ships of FN and FS convoys proceeding direct from position X for Downs and vice versa (C. in C. Nore, 1758/7).

Casualties

JERSEY was torpedoed 0235/7 off Cromer Knoll Lt. V. Reported seeing track of torpedo. Casualties 2 officers 8 men missing, 12 ratings injured. Was docked at Immingham seriously damaged, will require new engines and shafts, and the after tubes were blown overboard. Towed in by JUNO (F.O. Humber 2323/7) JUNO and JACKAL afterwards obtained presumed U-boat contact and carried out attacks, without visible results.

STANBROOK posted missing — 1385 tons from Antwerp 18/11 to Tyne due 20/11.

BOWLING -do- — 793 tons from Leith 19/11 to Antwerp due 21/11.

Rosyth escort vessels

Urgent representation from C. in C. Rosyth that whilst two day East Coast convoys are in force

War Diary.

8.12.39
Friday.

S/M's attacked.

1455 By flying boat with 8 bombs. The submarine was that which had sunk S.S. BRANDON in Western Approaches. Two destroyers WALKER and WHIRLWIND from convoy escort joined the hunt and carried out 2 attacks on good contact without apparent results. Hunt continues. (D.C.N.S.)

1449 WALKER and WHIRLWIND carried out 2 attacks 50° 12' N. 9° 5' W. (C. in C. W.A. 2329/8)

War Diary. 8.12.39
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's reported.

0930 From aircraft to Pembroke W/T. Position course and speed of enemy B/F is LMDF 320 course 180°

0100 U-boat operating in West Fjiord 67.40 N., 14.30 E.(D.C. 0744/8) 3 destroyers proceeded to hunt.

1225 U-boat in position 50.06 N., 9.10 W. (D.C. 1343/8)

0255 In Irish Sea 16' 1420 Ramsey I.O.M. Reported by ULSTER HERO, reliability unknown. MALLARD and A/S trawler KING SOL to sweep (N.O. i/c Liverpool 1230/8)

1815 By D/F position of unknown enemy unit 54° 35' N. 4° 10' E. Reliable (D.N.I. 1848/8)

1000 Hebrides 59° 30' N. 7° 30' W. reported by A/C (O.I.C.)

2350 Explosion apparently about 3 miles N.E. Cromer cause unknown (C. in C. Nore 0137/9)

and

1615-1645 Between Land's End/ Penzance, seen from land on surface reliability C4. WANDERER to attack (C. in C.W.A. 1736/8)

1000 Second s/m now reported LMKQ 3030 course 18° (C. in C. Rosyth 1136/8) D.C. 1158/8.

North Atlantic. S/M reported 0705 date unspecified 36° 45' N. 7° W. V-C Corunna received reliable information 6/12 of German S/M being supplied from Vivero. Could get earlier information of similar events if authorised to spend a little money on Admiralty account. (N.A. Madrid 1951/8) Further report of S/M's being supplied off Spanish and North African coast. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1246/8)

South Atlantic. Reported from French source that Brazilian ship POTENGY was stopped by German submarine off De Bahia 8th December (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1850/16)

S/M's attacked.

09.30. By aircraft on patrol 59° 32' N. 1° W (85 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath) U-boat sighted on surface and attacked. First bomb exploded one yard off conning tower while S/m was submerging, second over stern which was by then submerged. Oil and air bubbles appeared, and after 3 minutes the bow and conning tower broke surface remaining in sight for 5 minutes when S/M slowly sank (D.C.N.S.

1313 ESCORT, ELECTRA searched but did not obtain contact.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.
THOMAS WALTON
0100 sunk.

4,460 tons, under charter to H.M. Govt. and outward bound in ballast from Port Talbot for Narvik was torpedoed in Westfjord at entrance to Narvik. One man killed (?2) 21 of crew rescued by German SEBU and landed at Bodoe. Remainder (?22) of crew picked up by Norwegian IRMA Captain believes it was torpedo no mines near (N.A. Oslo 2200/8) Verify position (D.N.I.) to Narvik 2318/8) 67° 53' N. 14 ° 29' E. Second explosion some time later (Narvik 1121/8) Captain isscertain he was within Norwegian territorial waters; official enquiry to be held (N.A.D.S. 10/450/9)
Route given by Master:-
After making Myken Light he proceeded past Tennholmen Fyr to position 2 miles from Maaloy Skarhl Fyr arriving there 1642 G.M.T. Thence he steered 034° true till off Engelvaer and when still in green sector of that light the explosion occurred at 1715 G.M.T. Position given in Tromso newspapers 134° 52' N. 014° 32' E. (Narvik 1245/9)

1715 G.M.T.

STANBROOK
presumed sunk.

1383 tons, overdue from 1/12 presumed sunk.

MEREL
sunk.

1088 tons, sunk by mine off Ramsgate, 2 survivors both injured, one dead picked up.
Crew believed to number 17 or 18.

BRANDON 1225
sunk.

6668 tons torpedoed 80 miles S.W. of Fastnet 50° 6' N. 9° 10' W. She was outward bound in ballast in Convoy OB 48. Belgian trawler MARIE JOSE ROSETTE and trawler TRITTEN picked up survivors and landed them. Torpedoed without warning. Capt R. Chisholm. Master. casualties 9 killed, 6 seriously injured. (BRANDON 1225/8) and Master's story.

COREA 2350
sunk

Small coastal steamer 751 tons, sunk by a mine 3 miles N.E. of Cromer. 7 survivors out of crew of 15 picked up by Cromer lifeboat. (F.O. Humber 0228/9) D.O. Cromer 2350/8)

War Diary.

8.12.39
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

OLDENBURG — Passed here southbound 0830/8 loaded with iron ore (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1145/8)
A.1. Two German merchant vessels laden with iron ore passed south through Little Belt 1500/7 (N.A. Copenhagen 1740/8)
Expected to leave a.m. 9/12 for Lubeck (Arendal 1116/8)

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL TENERIFE — Arrived with coal (NCSO Gothenburg 1503/8)

America and West Indies.

EISENACH — Reported that she has applied to Panama foroil fuel in barrels to be shipped to her at Punta Arenas (D.N.I. 1104/8)

South Atlantic.

ADOLF LEONHARDT — Intercepted cable from Lobito to Felat Cape Town, states that Captain of Port informs that ADOLF LEONHARDT will sail tonight. (1730/8)

LAHN — Alongside but not commenced discharging cargo (S.O. (I) Montevideo 2110/8)

TACOMA — Still not fuelled (do.)

KONIGSBERG — At Para German firm buying rubber at fantastic prices said to be for shipment to Hamburg by KONIGSBERG (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2110/8)

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

East Indies.

Enemy Units. By D/F. at 2235/7 enemy unit near Prince Edward Is. 46°30'S.,38°E. (D.N.I.1135/8). Cancel. Bearings indicate enemy unit somewhere between Prince Edward Is., and Durban (D.N.I.1740/9).

Embargo. Ships which arrive at Port Said without clearance should be advised to call Aden to avoid diversion later. Until armed boarding vessels available at Aden possibility that some ships may evade control is accepted. (D.E.W.D.1942/8).

Mediterranean.

Embargo. Until full procedure referred to in 1835/1 is brought into force ships in Mediterranean are not to be diverted into port for examination unless Admiralty has signalled names as suspicious. French will act similarly in case of ships westbound from Italian ports and Adriatic. Warn Masters to have cargo covered by certificates of origin on next voyage. (D.E.W.D.1941/8). More on same subject - instructions issued by French for ships proceeding to Sweden. (D.E.W.D. 1509/8).

French positions. S.O.(I) Gib. 1032/8.

Patrol. Unseen reconnaissance patrol to be established by OSWALD in area C.G. between 11/12 and 23/12, in order to obtain information of neutral ships appearing to evade our patrol. (C-in-C., Med. 1911/8).

OUED TIFLET French merchant vessel, reported in Paris she got into port damaged by mine or torpedo. Was being used to transport sailors from Morocco to France.

SANDU Rumanian merchant ship. Unconfirmed Press report that she was sunk by mine off Black Sea coast at junction of Bulgaria and Rumania.

Convoys. Your 0140/6 ships of 15 knots should not be included in convoy (D.T.D.2044/8).

War Diary. 8.12.39
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy HX10. Swedish S.S. TUNAHOLM suspected of reporting position of convoy HX10. Convoy diverted. Suspicious star shell and S/L seen 30 hours later, 15 to 20 miles from convoy, convoy again diverted, but information since received that position might coincide with position of Force L at that time (YORK 1108/8).

Air. Reconnaissance. Suggestion by Minister, Guatemala for air reconnaissance in Caribbean Gulf of Mexico. (Mr. Leche No. 116/8/12)

North Atlantic.

French Positions. 1200/8 (D.C.0400/8)

China.

Gunboats. Gunboats in Japanese controlled waters of Yangtse may now be withdrawn as convenient. (Hd. of M. 1927/8)

Embargo. Little risk of sabotage to British ships loading cargoes discharged at time when Germans can have had no suspicion that British ships might subsequently load such cargoes. Propose acceptance of such cargoes if have been out of German control 10 days or more. Present embargo causes inconvenience. (S.O.(I) Shanghai 0859Z/8)

South Atlantic.

S/M. Report of S/m seen by fishing boat 4/12, with swastika on conning tower. Near Bahia de Traicao (B.C. Pernambuco 1110/8)

Suspicious Ship. U.S. STEEL TRAVELLER reported sighting 1600 18/19 Nov. 500 miles W.N.W. Cape of Good Hope suspicious tanker with several small craft round her, C 3, (N.O. i/c Karachi 1339/8)

Force H. If fuel permits Force H are to proceed towards Lobito attempt to intercept ADOLF LEONHARDT (C. in C. S.A.2215/8)

ASHLEA. Reported that between 2/10 and 4/10 Capetown Radio announced sinking of S.S.ASHLEA by a raider. Can you confirm and obtain any further information? (D.N.I. 1854/8)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.M.S. VALIANT. To work up at Bermuda. Orders. On completion of working up, to proceed Halifax, then return U.K. as ocean escort to first available important convoy. (D.C.N.S., 1833/8).

R.A.3, EFFINGHAM. My 2303/3 and your 1930/4. Concur in your proposals regarding R.A.3. Reasons for release of EFFINGHAM are appreciated, but it will be necessary to employ a 6-in. cruiser selected by you for duty ordered in Admiralty 1525/2 and with T.C.2 also. (D.C.N.S., 1853/8).

EMERALD. Ref. 1853/8, will EMERALD be available on 21/12 for covering force with T.C.2 without interfering with your further requirements for EMERALD for ocean escort duties?. (C. in C., A.W.I.,1520/9)

T.C.2 Escort My 2301/3. decided that BARHAM is to join Home Fleet forthwith. Inform Admiral Darlan therefore that escort for second Canadian Convoy will consist of DUNKERQUE, GLOIRE, and REVENGE. (D.C.N.S.,to B.N.L.O.,Marceau, 1252/8).
My 2316/7, ORAMA substituted for ORONSAY. (D. of S.T., 1208/8).

Australia.

Troop Convoy, Escort. Suggestion for an Australian 8-in. cruiser to join RAMILLIES in escort of New Zealand Expeditionary Force from Wellington to Australia. (1st S.L., 1044/7). Should be no difficulty in arranging this. Proposals for escort. Delay in arrival here of "C" class cruisers. (First Naval Member, Melbourne, 1345/8).

War Diary. 8.12.39
Friday.

FENNO-SOVIET WAR

The Soviet Russian Foreign Commissariat declares Finland's coast and adjoining waters blockaded from 12 O'clock 8th of December. The Blockaded areas outside boundary begins 20 seamiles south of the mouth of the River Tornia goes towards south 20 seamiles from Finland's coast to 60° 41' Northern latitude 20° 30' Eastern longitude follows from here towards east parallel 60° 41' to the point of intersection with meridian 21° from here toward south along the eastern boundary of the Aaland Island's sea territory to parallel 59° 27' which follows eastwards till it intersects the meridian 23° 50' from here towards north along this meridian. Foreign ships will be able to leave the blockade area before 12 o'clock 9th December from which moment it is declared dangerous for navigation. The Aaland Islands are not affected unless they are used for waroperating purposes. (Thorshavnradio NR 200 7.22.18.)

War Diary.

8.12.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Launch sunk — German Naval lauch of no military value sunk by mine off Langeland, South Denmark a.m., in the same position where two German patrol vessels or minelayers were sunk recently. (Copenhagen 1030/9)

Mines. — Evidence of mine picked up at Sittingbourne show they are now being produced in mass (S.O.R.A(M.L.) 2210/8)

DEUTSCHLAND — French N.A. informed that a DEUTSCHLAND class ship arrived Kiel 2/12 having passed Kiel Canal. Probability unknown (N.A. Copenhagen 1720/8)

War Diary.

8.12.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. Convoys entered during night. One ship in company (ACASTA 0825/8) Ocean convoys positions 2000/8 (ACWA 1347/8)

HXFII, position course and speed of advance 1200/9/12 (F.O.C. 3 B.S.1739/8)
HX10 disorganised by fog. My position (WAKEFIELD 1001/9) HX10 arrived 1025 (N.O. i/c Liverpool 1040/11)

Ferrol patrol. Spanish Navy doing nothing to watch coast outside immediate vicinity of naval base. (N.A. Madrid 1951/8)

Falmouth C.C.Base. Falmouth base ready a.m. for operating as Contraband Control Station (C.C.S.O. Falmouth 1734/5)

Nore Command ships' positions. Movements in Nore Command for period ending 0700/8 (C. in C. Nore 06537)

Positions of S/M's. 0700/8 (D.C.1841/7)

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	S.S.W. Fresh to strong. Gale in North.	Poor, rain.
Horns Reef	S. Moderate.	Moderate, fog patches.
Channel.	S.S.W. Moderate to fresh	Poor, rain.
W.Approaches	S.W. fresh to strong.	Poor.
Outlook.	Southerly gale from Land's End to Duncansby Head.	

8.12.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

Convoy HN4. HOOD with 4 destroyers is patrolling east of Faroes to cover return of Norwegian convoy HN4 Excluding zone H which will be continuously filled 7 s/m's to be maintained in present patrol position until 2200/10 by which time convoy HN4 should have passed Shetlands. Afterwards reverts ordinary patrol zone; in addition to zones A.B.C.(2 s/m's) E and H one s/m will be detailed to accompany O N and H N convoys until further orders (RA(S) 1917/8) s/m will accompany HN5 (C. in C. Rosyth 1844/12)

S/M patrols S/M to accompany convoys.

Northern Patrol. Between Faores and Iceland, 1 cruiser, 6 A.M.C's.

In Denmark Strait 2 cruisers, 1 A.M.C.
Five C. and D. Class cruisers left Port A 1700/8 for Northern Patrol. Not practicable for ships without hangars to carry a/c's during winter on N. Patrol. Please inform Adty. of your policy observing that SHEFFIELD, EDINBURGH, not carrying any aircraft at present time. (1st S.L. to C. in C. H.F. 2250/8)

Air Reconnaissances. Normal patrols.

Enemy Air Activity. Except for report of 2 aircraft heard near south side of Pentland Firth, at 2050, no reports of EAA today probably due to bad weather on German coast.

Routing. It is expected that there will be a considerable number of ships in ballast crossing the Atlantic Westward bound during the next few months. Desirable that such ships should avoid the North Atlantic gales and to this end they should be given a Southernly route. As a general guide ships bound for Halifax or Hampton Roads may be routed as far South as 37° North. Masters should be consulted as to whether the routes proposed are suitable for their particular ship.
(D.T.D. 1939/8)

Casualties. Press report that M/S Trawler SUZETTE was aground off an East coast port. Efforts will be made to refloat her.

HXIOA. Ran into fog bank 2300/8. Disorganised (WAKEFUL 1001/9)

Scapa Blockship. Blockship GAMBHIRA successfully sunk blocking the north channel of Kirk Sound, Scapa Flow. (D.C.N.S.)

WAR DIARY.

9. 12. 39.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked

GIMBLE sunk (? date) — Norwegian 1271 tons, as result of explosion off East Coast, 16 of crew landed by Norwegian RUDOLF, 3 missing.

SAN ALBERTO sunk. — 0630 Tanker, 7365 tons, under charter to H.M. Government outward bound in ballast from Liverpool not in convoy was torpedoed 49° 28' N. 9° 51' W. about 80 miles South of Fastnet. Broke in two 1420/10. At that time all crew was on board except 2 which had been taken off by Belgian tanker ALEXANDRE ANDRE. (C. in C.W.A. 1625/10). ALEXANDRE ANDRE's engine partly disabled and must abandon rescue (Landsend Radio 1421/10).

MAGNUS sunk — Danish 1339 tons sunk by mine on way to Firth of Forth from Goteborg in ballast. One man picked up and one badly injured (doing well 14/12) on a raft by trawler PHILIPPE, remainder of crew lost. (D.T.D. 1301/14).

S/m's reported

0400 49° 35' N. 0° 52' W. French Report (Dunkerque Radio 0605/9).

0230 11 miles South of Mousehole by fishing boat EFFICIENT, speed about 12 knots (C. in C. W.A. 2200/9).

1652 D.F. unknown enemy unit on line of bearing 80° from Cupar between longitudes 1° E. and 4° E. (D.N.I 1731/9).

S/m's. attacked

0622 110° Cape Barfleur 16 miles being attacked by French forces (D.C. 0622/9).

1000 French A/S vessel attacked submarine 49° 36' N. 0° 22' W. No details (I.C. 029539).

0400 French patrol vessel off Barfleur 49° 35' N. 0° 52' W., result not known (O.I.C.)

1200 French escort vessel COMMANDANT DU BOC, 25 miles N. of Cape Spartel. No definite result (D.S. 19/12).

North Atlantic.

1200 COMMANDANT DU BOC attacked submarine 357° Spartel 2.5 miles. U-boat came to surface and apparently capsized. (I.C.0300/39). What are the facts (D.N.I.1019/16). Probably a whale (S.O.(I) Gib. 1802/16).

WAR DIARY. 9.12.39.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

NEUENFELS. Left 8/12 during night loaded with oil.
ALTONA. Arrival during night German ship name unknown probably for ore (Narvik 1256/9). Name is ALTONA (Narvik 1330/11).

FERONIA. Approx. 900 tons, arrived 9/12 (Trondheim 1400/9).

JOHAN BLUMENTHAL. Left Arendal during night (Arundal 0955/9)

VIOLA Has sa led from here (Oslo 1507/9).

America and West Indies.

WINDHOOK Press report that she arrived New York flying Japanese flag. Left Portuguese W.Africa 20/11. Sighted by a British warship which failed to recognise her.

NORDMEER 5671 tons, which had been at Curacao, Dutch West Indies, since beginning of war, and was under arrest for money owing for bunkers, sailed 1940 9/12 and was fired on as she left (S.O.(I) Kingston, 0250 and 1900/10).

South Atlantic.

ADOLF LEONHARDT scuttled. 2980 tons, sailed from Lobito 1830/8 (N.O.in Charge, Simonstown 1150/9) scuttled herself and could not be saved, so was sunk by gunfire when intercepted 1200/9 by Force H (SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE) 13° S, 11° 44'E. 115 miles W.S.W. of Lobito. (C.in C.E.A; 1935/9)2257/9).
6 officers and 19 other survivors in SHROPSHIRE.

SANTA CRUZ. Reported at Rio (Cable Censorship intercept)
TACOMA. Reported at Montevideo likely to sail at any moment without notice. Thought unlikely as she has not yet fuelled. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/9).

KONIGSBERG. At Para has fuel for only 6 days. Local rumours her cargo ofrubber to be transferred at sea to German warships or submarines for blockade running (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/9).

RIO GRANDE At Rio Grande do Sul has filled all ava lable cargo space and received some diesel oil. V.C. consider she may slip out without permission (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/9).

China.

SCHARNHORST Intercepted cable 9/12 from Mitsubishi Osaka to Mitsubishe Alexandria indicates that owners of SCHARNHORST (at Kobe) "offer peacock voile yarn 1000 turns 30 cases" in payment of harbour dues and other charges.(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1131/10)
Intercepted letter indicating that ships at Curacao hoping to get away before very long. (I.C.0294/39).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Canadian Convoy Escort. My 1959/6. DUNKERQUE and GLOIRE will arrive Halifax on 18 or 19/12 and together will require maximum of 3,000 tons of fuel. Request A/S escort and rendezvous. (D.O.D.(F), 2255/9).

N.S.H.Q., 1053/2, and 2011/2. Capacities of AQUITANIA and other vessels. (D. of S.T., 0130/9).

Route. Admiralty's 2308/7. Route from positions (D) to (E) and (F) and destination. (C. in C., Western Approaches, 1324/9).

A/S Escorts. R.A.3's 1116/6 and my 2312/7. Question of detaching a fast group should be left to discretion of senior officer present. Fast groups if detached should proceed at high speed without A/S escort who should remain with slow group. (D.C.N.S., 1409/39).

Request information whether any westbound merchant ships given the route to be taken by T.c.l. (F.O.C.,3 B.S., 1951/9).

WAR DIARY

9.12.39.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

? SCHEER. Aeroplane from Lobito located at 0700/9 three ships stationary about 80 miles off the coast 40 miles south of Lobito, one a very large one, possibly a warship. Local military planes endeavouring to identify them. From V.C. Lobito who informed C.in C.S.A. (C.in C.S.A.2045/9).

Mediterranean.

French Ships. Arrivals and departures Malta 9/12 (S.O.(I) Malta 1931/9).

East Indies.

Force I. To arrive Durban 12/12 for fuel and if circumstances allow boiler cleaning and rest (C.in C.E.I.0647/9).

SCHEER. Press report 7/12 that SCHEER stopped and searched Dutch s.s.MAPIA in Indian Ocean.

America and West Indies.

Convoy position. HXF 11 at 1200/9 (F.O.C.3 B.S.1739/8).

China.

Re gunnery co-operation between KENT and SUFFREN. Latter to have green salvo splashes. The 3 ships of each (French) division have each different colours allotted to them, red, green or yellow. Experiments proceeding to produce luminous colour yellow for night action. (C.in C.China 02292/9). Singapore and Hong Kong, arrivals and departures (S.O.(I) Singapore 10072/9).

North Atlantic.

French Positions. 1200/9 (D.C.0126/9) D.C.1948/9 (Force X, Convoys etc.

British Positions. 1200/9 (D.C.1957/8). Includes also some ships (e.g. NEPTUNE, HERMES) in South Atlantic.

War material Reported that quantity of war material leaves Lisbon 9/12 for Angola (N.A.Lisbon 1509/9).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE (contd.)

Norwegian Air Patrols. Chief of Norwegian Naval Staff states that neither DEUTSCHLAND nor EMDEN have been sighted by Air Force Patrols north of 62°N. nor by coastguards.

Danish ships seized. a.m.9/12 Danish s.s. FRIGGE with general cargo from U.K. to Denmark was seized by trawlers in Slugen off Skaw and taken to a German port (N.C.S.O.Esbjerg 1200/9).
P.m.9/12 two Danish food ships proceeding to England and one to Canary Is. were seized off Esbjerg but later one was released (N.C.S.O.Esbjerg 2330/9). Following this attack exports were stopped from Esbjerg (N.C.S.O. Esbjerg 1830/9). URSULA was ordered to neighbourhood of Esbjerg (R.A.(S) 1917/9). Further explosion off Landgode Island reported a.m. 9/12 (Narvik 1101/9).

German Minefield. Reported that Germans lately completed extensive shore controlled hydrophone and mining system in Heligoland Bight to east of the German declared minefield (D.N.I.1605/9).

Unidentified naval units. Unidentified naval units were located at 1356 in approx.55°10'N. 5°0'E. and 56°40'N. 1°4'E. at 1652 (I.C.0294/39).
Reported A1 that Germans are collecting mines driven up from British minefields for laying in special areas for propaganda purposes (N.A.Copenhagen 2230/9.

FENNO-SOVIET HOSTILITIES.

Stockholm closed. Blockade of Finland. New Swedish minefield laid at Oergrund, south of Stockholm, closing the harbour (Press). Boundary is territorial waters to 4 mile limit, though no definite mention of 4 mile limit was made. Arrangements made for Finnish traffic to pass North of minefields and to use Swedish territorial waters when south of minefields (N.A.Oslo 1800/9)
Soviet Commissar announces outer borders of blockaded area commence 20 nautical miles from estuary of river Torneaas, running south 20 miles off Finnish coast to 60° 41' N. 20° 30'E. and following from there towards East parallel of 60° 41' to meridian 21° E. from here it runs south along eastern border of sea territory of Aaland Is. to parallel 59° 27' N. following East to the crossing with meridian 23° 50'E. from there north following the meridian. Foreign shipping will have opportunity of leaving the above mentioned waters before 1200/9. The Aaland Is.will not be touched unless they are being used for warlike purposes (Broadcast from Copenhagen 2100/9).

Raid on Kronstadt. Press reports that (date unspecified) Finnish light craft (motor boats bought from U.K.1938) penetrated into Kronstadt and damaged Russian warships.
Norwegian Air Force patrols north of 62° N. have been discontinued due to air patrol requirements on Finnish border.
Russian cruiser MINUTIAE and minelayer left Liepaja, 9th (Vice-Consul, Liepaja 1415/10).

HOME COMMANDS (contd.)

Suspicious Vessel. Pilot of s.s.SARTHE saw in suspicious circumstances at 1005/9 Dutch s.s. JACOBA in position 240° 1 - 2 miles from Goodwin Knoll buoy at anchor. May have been laying mines (F.O. in Charge London 1955/9).

Unexplained Explosions. Reported 1110 in 54° 16'N. 0°16' W. (off Scarborough (I.C.0294/39). Also reports of explosions in West Fjord in the early hours of 8/12 and another on 9/12 (I.C.0294/39).

P.Vs. Norwegian enquiry whether Admiralty recommend fitting paravanes to their ships (N.A.Oslo 1740/9).

Submarines Positions and movements for next 24 hours (D.C.1956/8).

Magnetic Minesweepers. Re wooden vessels available on Swedish west coast (Stockholm 1117/9) (Evidently for sweeping for magnetic mines.)

W E A T H E R.

	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea.		
North and East Part.....	S. Gale	moderate or poor
South and West Part.....	N.W.Moderate	
Horns Reef	S.E.Strong	moderate
Channel	W.Moderate	moderate or poor
Western Approaches	S.Strong	moderate or poor.

Outlook: South Westerly gale.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE

DEUTSCHLAND Naval Attache, Copenhagen, reports that Danish newspapers publish an unconfirmed rumour that Deutschland has returned to Germany. French Naval Attache also informed him that he had been told a ship of DEUTSCHLAND class arrived Kiel on December 2 having passed through Kiel Canal (D.C.N.S.)

Heligoland Raid. 3/12. Report received that the cruiser HIPPER and destroyer RIEPEL were damaged and a patrol boat sunk during air raid on Heligoland on 3rd December No indication from photographs that HIPPER was present off Heligoland at the time. Last reliable report stated she was in dock at Hamburg on December 1. (O.I.C.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of the Tyne.	Conclusions endorsed by Military Co-ordination Committee of the War Cabinet on low flying defences to be provided forthwith for the Tyne, A/A guns, balloons, etc., to be diverted. (Air Ministry, to Fighter Command, 1440/9/12).

WAR DIARY

9.12.39.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

C.in C. in WARSPITE at Clyde.

HOOD with 4 destroyers covering Norwegian convoy H.N.4 to leave her area today and return to Clyde.
RODNEY expected to enter Liverpool 8 a.m. today, after Convoy S.L.F.10B (4 ships).
BARHAM and two destroyers off Finisterre en route for Clyde.
EDINBURGH and GLASGOW covering Convoy H.N.4 (8 ships), escorted by 4 destroyers.
SHEFFIELD to Tyne, passing Fair Island Channel 2100/9.

Northern Patrol

Five C and D class cruisers left Port 'A' 1700 8/12 for Northern Patrol. Two 8" cruisers moving from Denmark Strait to S.E. of Iceland. Seven A.M.Cs. leaving Northern Patrol today for Clyde and Liverpool.

Air Reconnaissance.

Normal Patrol.

Enemy air activity.

At 1058 two enemy aircraft were observed over Kirkwall flying high. Fighters were sent up but failed to intercept. Two objects reported dropped from aircraft roughly 2 miles N.W. of St.Abb's Head 0830 (I.C.0295/39).

War Channel.

2 minesweeping trawlers will search war channel between Farm Islands and St.Abbs Head 10/12 (C.in C.Rosyth 1331/9).

Scandinavian Convoys.

Fredolsen S.S.Line Oslo want bi-weekly convoy U.K. and Norway in lieu of present weekly convoy. Owing to sinkings of single ships by German submarines moregeneral use of convoys by neutrals is anticipated. (N.A.Oslo 1730/9).

Ocean convoys.

Position 2000/9 (A.C.W.A.1347/9).

Shipping in Downs.

Approx. 100, including convoy 23, sailings 24 (V.A.Dover 1959/9). To relieve congestion ships may be sent on to Falmouth for export control provided Master willing and gives undertaking to proceed there (D.E.W.D.2221/9).

Darkening ships

Complaints that neutral ships lying at examination anchorage in Downs do not darken ship completely. Their exposed lights may act as guides for enemy aircraft dropping parachute mines. (A.C.N.S.2109/9) Instructions issued aiming at complete darkening (V.A.Dover 1718/10).

Casualties

SAN ALBERTO, Tanker on charter to H.M.Government. See U-boat campaign.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING (continued)

1622 H.M.S. PUFFIN attacked contact with single charge in position 50° 06'N., 03° 50'W. Consider it to be non-submarine (PUFFIN, 1622/10)

1036 H.M.S. WOLVERINE attacked good contact in position 49° 45'N, 05° 25'W (WOLVERINE 1036/10) Motors heard. Air bubbles and oil. H.M.S. KEITH joining shortly (WOLVERINE, 1150/10). No contact since WOLVERINE last attack at 1336. Am leaving WOLVERINE in vicinity of the attack in case submarine surfaces at dusk. KEITH remaining in vicinity of tow (KEITH, 1558/10) (see Casualties, TONGARIRO)

2018 H.M.S. FORESTER in position 57° 59'N, 05° 42'W, did not sight a submarine but obtained firm contanct before and after 3 attacks but lost after fourth. H.M.S. KINGFISHER unable to confirm. After daylight to-day no sign of successful attack. (N.O.I.C. Port A. 1230/11)

P.M. Press report (unconfirmed) that ALMEDA STAR claims to have hit s/m on night of 10/12 (Press Section postagram 2345/12)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

RAY OF HOPE sunk

1500 H.M. Drifter RAY OF HOPE was blown up near Tongue Lt. V. at 15.00 by a mine whilst clearing mines, 51° 29.7'N, 1° 25.8'E. 3 survivors, 4 killed 5 missing. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1520/10)

WILLOWPOOL sunk

1600 4815 tons, 8.5 knots with cargo of iron ore for Tees which had left her convoy in Downs was damaged by explosion, believed mine, 3 miles East of Newarp lightship, crew 36 saved by lifeboat 3 slightly injured. Sank. /11 (C-in-C Nore, 0346/11 Trade. C-in-C Nore 0407/11)

IMMINGHAM beached

Dutch M/V IMMINGHAM, 398 tons, reported to have struck a mine off Kallantsoog in North Holland, near southern edge of Dutch prohibited area. Reported to have been beached. Crew of seven rescued (Reuter, Amsterdam)

KASSA sunk

Estonian ship KASSA, 1022 tons, sunk by unknown submarine. Survivors (2 wounded) arrived Tallinn, 1 man missing (D.5)

s/m's reported

2005 U-boat passed WILLIAM STEVENS heading north Position 5A Buoy S.E. two miles (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2015/10)

1448 MACKAY ordered to detach one destroyer to hunt assailant of SAN ALBERTO in 049° 28'N, 09° 51'W (C-in-C. W.A. 1448/10)

2100 S/M reported by French ship ALGERIE on arrival at Casablanca, in position 35° 35'N, 07° 34'W, not French, report not confirmed. (F.O.C.N.A., 1613/11, 1600/11)

2345 Tyne reports sound plot 54° 40'30"N, 01° 03'W, then went north for 4 or 5 miles and returned. Last heard in 54° 39'20"N, 00° 57'W at 2345 (C-in-C Rosyth 2356/10)

s/m's attacked U-boat sunk

SALMON reported 0300/10 that on 4/12 she sank an outward bound U-boat 75 miles S.W. from Lister Light (S.Norway) (R.A.(S) 1004/10) (SALMON 0300/10)

1400 French patrol boat shelled and attacked s/m with d/c's off Etretat (North of Havre I.C. 0295/39)

2345 H.M.S. ABERDEEN dropped one pattern on good contact in position 143° Owers 24 at 2345. No apparent result. ABERDEEN rejoining convoy. (WAKEFUL, 0031/11) H.M.S. ACHERON sent to hunt (C-in-C Portsmouth, 0217/11)

10.12.39.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS (continued)

COLUMBUS
ARAUCA

Press reports that "phantom warship" outside Vera Cruz is British awaiting departure of COLUMBUS and ARAUCA. Also reports an American gunboat patrolling outside Manzanillo where HAVELLAND recently discharged cargo of copra and took in cargo of oil fuel.

HAVELLAND

N.C.S.O.
San Salvador

Reported these officers have little or nothing to do. Suggest withdrawal to U.K. where there is a serious shortage of officers (D.T.D. 2032/10) ordered to return (C-in-C A.W.I. 1145/11)

GERMAN MERCHANT VESSELS

Home Commands

BREMEN

Submarine SALMON reports that she sighted the North German Lloyd liner BREMEN, 51,731 tons, homeward bound from Murmansk to Germany, but was unable to sink her owing to the rules of sea warfare, although she passed within torpedo range.

China

NORD MEER

Sheltering Curacao, under arrest by A.P.C. for unpaid bunkers sailed last night 9/12. (Cable intercept 10/12)

S.O.(I) Kingston reports that ships at Curacao have been ordered outside to St. Michiel Bay (near Bullen Bay). Ships are protesting.

North Atlantic

RIO DE JANEIRO

Finished loading a.m. 10/12 and is again at anchor. Some merchandise, probably Argentine produce, transhipped to Dutch ship NJORD (Consul, Vigo, 1857/10)

South Atlantic

TACOMA

Uruguayan authorities granted permit for 1600 tons of oil fuel (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2219/10)

America and West Indies

DUSSELDORF

At Valparaiso, has applied for 800 tons oil fuel. Ambassador asked to inform C-in-C A & W.I. when he considers ship intends to sail. (D.E.W.D. 2330/10)

CURACAO

Again ordered outside. Further protest being lodged (S.O.(I) Kingston 1533/10)

War Diary.

10.12.1939.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

T.C.1. Halifax departures 10th December:-
ALAUNIA and French submarine ACHILLE, ocean escort,
H.X.F.12. HXF.12. SAGUENAY and SKEENA, local escort, HXF12.
FURIOUS, REPULSE, EMERAID, HYPERION, HUNTER+ as covering force T. C. 1. RESOLUTION, ocean escort for T.C.1.
OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, FRASER, ST. LAURENT, local escort for T.C.1. (S.O.(I), Halifax, 1300/10).

Departure from Halifax at 1415/10, of T.C.1, consisting of five British liners, (list). (Capt.,D'Yard, Halifax, 1909/10). More complete list of personnel and freight ((Movements Control, Ottawa, 2353/10).

R.A.3 B.S.'s 1951/9. This information is not in possession of Admiralty (D.O.D.(F), 1202/10).

My 2011/1 and your 0130/9. Request capacity of REINA DEL PACIFICO, ALMANZORA, ANDROS. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2116/10). Reply - (D.of S.T.,1446/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Re. keeping neutral merchant ships from Freetown where Force K and other allied warships may be (C-in-C S.A. 1115/10 Hd. of M 0020/10)

TRELAWNEY — British, due Rivoli Bay, Plate 6/12 from Freetown. Is there any news of her? (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1703/11)

SANTA ELENA — Argentine, ex-SENTINEL II has sailed from Buenos Aires in ballast for Brazilian ports. Suspect. May be used as s/m supply ship (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1214/10)

China

s/m to watch Vladivostock — Suggestion to send a s/m to watch Vladivostock to discover whether Russian s/m's showing signs of activity. No objection provided she keeps outside 3 mile limit and unseen as far as possible. (C-in-C China 0211Z/10, 1st S.L. 1112/10)

Arrangements for withdrawal of China gunboats (R.A. Yangtse 0952Z/10 C-in-C China 0436Z/11 Hd. of M 1659/12)

Mediterranean

French movements — TEMPETE (Fr. destroyer) passed E to W 0040 (S.O.(I) Gib. 0942/10)
Departures Malta (S.O.(I) Malta 2109/10)

North Atlantic

French positions — 1200/12 (D.C. 0050/10)

s/m's — Reliable but unconfirmed report at least one U-boat was off Cape Spartel 4 weeks ago and had opportunity of communication with coaster from Sanerici Pietri (Madrid 1850/11) (This was in reply to S.O.(I) Gib. 1618/27/11)

Positions of ships and convoys — D.C. 1901/10

America and West Indies

HXF12 — Sailing telegram (Capt. Cmdr. H.M.C Dockyard Halifax 1031/10)

French trawlers — French trawlers COOT, PLOVER and BRANT left Bermuda for Casablanca via Azores (C-in-C Bermuda 1712/10)

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR

Telegraphic communication

Telegraphic communication with Russia was cut off at 0435/10. Resumed later. Communications between Finland and Estonia, including air, telephone and telegraph suspended (Broadcast Rome 1900/9)

Prohibited area, Estonia

Tallinn Radio (Estonia) has broadcast a prohibited area in the waters round East and West Hago 59° 20'N 24°E (I.C. 0295/39)

ALLOCATION OF CRUISERS

Allocation of 'C' and 'D' Class cruisers after relief on Northern Patrol, and on completion of refit, and consequent alterations in other cruisers dispositions:- (D.C.N.S. 2029/10)

Ship	New Station	Remarks
COLOMBO	Australia	-
CERES	Australia	-
CARDIFF	Portsmouth Command	Gunnery Training ship
CALEDON	Mediterranean	To relieve ARETHUSA
CALYPSO	Mediterranean	To relieve PENELOPE
DRAGON	Mediterranean	To relieve GALATEA
DELHI	Mediterranean	Additional
DUNEDIN	America & W.Indies	To relieve PERTH
DIOMEDE	America & W.Indies	To relieve ORION
PERTH	S.America Division	To relieve ACHILLES
ORION	Home Fleet	18th Cruiser Sqdn.
ACHILLES	East Indies	Additional

HOME COMMANDS (continued)

Magnetic mine-sweeping

Mine-sweeping with special magnetic sweeps was carried out with highly satisfactory results (N.O.I.C.P.A. 2018/10)

If ship in convoy strikes a mine in Thames Estuary convoy should go straight on, not anchor, as it is probable 2 or 4 mines laid, others being outside the channel. (C-in-C Nore 1841/10)

War Channel

Owing to weather search of war channel was not continued south of St. Abb's Head. Another attempt will be made tomorrow (C-in-C Rosyth 0119/10) Sweep completed. Negative result. (C-in-C Rosyth 1907/12)

KASSA — Estonian (1022 tons) reported sunk by unknown s/m in Gulf of Finland (Press)

SANYO MARU — May have left Rotterdam outward bound today 10/12. If intercepted she should be brought in (D.E.W.D. 2331/10 to Northern Patrol etc.)

IMMINGHAM (Dutch) sunk — Dutch M.V. IMMINGHAM (398 tons) is reported to have struck a mine 10/12 off Kallantsoog in North Holland near South edge of Dutch prohibited area.

Ocean Convoys — Situation 2000/10 (A.C.W.A. 1339/10)

s/m's positions — 0700/10 (D.C. 1942/9)

WEATHER

0400		Wind	Visibility
North Sea	North part	S.E. gale	Moderate
Horns Reef	South part	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Channel		S.E. Moderate	Good
W. Approaches		W. Fresh	Good

Outlook :- S.E. gales in North, elsewhere in British Isles westerly wind, good visibility.

Enemy Intelligence

DEUTSCHLAND
EMDEN — Neither ship has been sighted by Norwegian air patrols off Norwegian coast north of Lat. 62° (I.C. 0294/39)

HOME COMMANDS (continued)

Portsmouth congestion

Any increase in traffic of Portsmouth area will present many difficulties (re proposal to use Portsmouth to relieve congestion in Downs.) Possible solution to use Weymouth and Falmouth as main and subsidiary C.C. Bases. Propose conference at Adty. (C-in-C Portsmouth 1943/11)

Casualties
TONGARIRO

British ship TONGARIRO, which damaged steering gear 5/12 while outward bound from Southampton for Auckland and was taken in tow, broke away. At 1957/10 was drifting E.S.E. about 15 miles off the Lizard. If tug fails at morning propose H.M.S. KEITH attempts to tow and H.M.S. WOLVERINE escorts (KEITH, 1957/10)

FIRE KING sunk

Belfast Heysham mail boat DUKE OF LANCASTER in collision off Isle of Man 0300 10/12 with Liverpool coasting vessel FIRE KING which sank. Crew rescued, one injured. (Press)

JOTUN grounded

Norwegian steamer JOTUN grounded south of Berwick on Tweed. Crew rescued by Holy Island lifeboat. (Press Assocn.)

Prohibited flying zones at night

As special anti A/C minelaying measure certain prohibited zones for flights by aircraft at night have been declared as follows:-
No A/C's except fighters in direct pursuit to enter these zones between 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
All A/C's in these areas at night are to be treated as hostile illuminated and engaged unless definitely recognised as friendly. To take effect as from 1630/10 (Adty. A.C.N.S. 1236/10)

(a) Firth, west of line Burntisland - Preston Pans.

(b) Tyne, including two miles to seaward off St. Mary's Island to Seaham Harbour.

(c) Humber, including 2 miles to seaward off Aldeburgh to Donna Nook.

(d) Harwich, including 2 miles to seaward off South River Deban to Base Nase.

(e) Thames including west of line Crouch-Tongue-Shell Ness.

(f) Dover, including 2 miles to seaward off St. Margaret's Bay to Abbot's Cliff.

(g) Newhaven, including 2 miles to seaward off Cuckmere Haven to Telscombe Cliffs.

(h) Portsmouth, including line Selsey Bill, St. Catherine's Point, Hurst Castle.

HOME COMMANDS.

Magnetic Mine Search.	S.s. ILSENSTEIN to be commissioned as H.M.S. ILSENSTEIN, tender to VICTORY. When ready for sea to sail for Port A and placed under orders of C. in C., H.F. Hoped to sail 11/12. Until an effective magnetic sweep has been produced she is to be used for searching channels for magnetic mines and for preceding H.M. ships in and out of harbour.(DD.O.D., 0010 and 0011/10) To sail from Rosyth 13/12 A.M., escorted by ESCORT and ELECTRA (C. in C., Rosyth, 1103/10).

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

C-in-C H.F. in WARSPITE at Clyde.
RODNEY at Liverpool.
HOOD with 4 destroyers returning to Clyde.
BARHAM with 2 destroyers, in Western Approaches is proceeding via West of Ireland to Clyde.
EDINBURGH and GLASGOW with 4 destroyers off Rattray Head escorting Convoy HN4.
CURLEW proceeding to Invergordon, expects to arrive 1600/10.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkney and Shetlands 2 cruisers
" Shetlands and Iceland4 "

Air Reconnaissances

(a) Special patrol over Dogger Bank area to report on suspicious flying boats flying Danish flag.
(b) Offensive reconnaissance by a Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons from Leuchars to entrance to Skagerrak 9°E.
(c) Patrols off North of Scotland to cover, in addition to performing normal duties, the retur of the AMC's from Northern Patrol.

Scandinavian Convoys

Procedure for s/m escort in event of attack etc. (RA(S) 1222/10, Cin-C H.F. 1707/12)

Enemy Air Activity

Minor air activity during the day, which may have been mine dropping off Newcastle and Hartlepool. Possible that enemy a/c's were off Whitby 2345.
Shore sentry observed plane drop two objects into the sea in rough position 2 miles N.W. St. Abbs Head, 0820/9. Trawlers have been sent to search war channel between Farm Is. and St. Abbs Head (C-in-C Rosyth 1558/10)
Griffin reported 2 parachutes falling in Knock Deep. Approx. 51° 40'N 0° 33½'E p.m. (I.C. 0295/39)

ILSENSTEIN

Mine bumper. To sail a.m./13 escorted by ESCORT and ELECTRA (C-in-C Rosyth 1103/10)
Further arrangements (C-in-C Rosyth 1538/10)
She commissioned 11/12 (Secret Branch Acquaint 317)

Destroyers' movements

Various movements (RA(D) Home Fleet 1036/10)

Downs congestion

81 ships in Downs (V.A. Dover 1950/10)
Owing to diversion of ships from North direct to Downs to await OA convoys and ships in North bound convoys having to wait in Downs so as to time arrival at position X to join FN. Downs is unable to hold all ships requiring anchorage, also bad weather frequently prevents boarding. Ships continually dragging anchors. Suggest Downs should not be used by vessels awaiting convoy. Downs is unsuitable as convoy assembly base as well as C.C. Base (V.A. Dover 1835/10)

War Diary

11. 12. 1939.
MONDAY

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

GAROUFALIA sunk — 4708 tons, torpedoed without warning off Norwegian coast near Namsos en route Kirkenae for iron ore destined Holland. 4 dead, 4 injured of crew of 25 including 2 pilots (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem and Press, Oslo). Reported sunk inside territorial waters. Most important to ascertain position (D.N.I. 1316/12) Position uncertain and official enquiry will be held (N.A. Oslo 1400/9). Position believed to be 3 miles North of Villa 64° 32' and 2½ miles off coast. (N.C.S.O. Trondheim 2000/12) Master fixed position 64° 35' 30" N. 10° 42' E. well inside territorial waters (Trondheim 2130/13). Harbour Master Aalesund, gives rough position 64° 50' N., 10° 43' 30" E. Unconfirmed report that 2 German U-boats seen working in this locality. (N.C.S.O., Aalesund 1900/12)

S/m's Reported

1619 By D.F. on 4412 Kcs., position 38° 30' N. 02° E., unreliable fix (D.N.I. 1639/11)

0630 By SS. KYLEGORM 49° 50' N. 2° 5' W. heading south (N.C.S.O. Havre 1030/12)

1230 A/S trawler LORD LLOYD reports object sighted resembling periscope westward rough buoy. Two trawlers sent to assist (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1306/11)

1935 Italian steamer LOASSO reported at Tyne narrowly missed ramming submarine on surface in position 2½ miles 100 deg. from Tyne entrance, proceeding south. Three A/S trawlers searching (C. in C. Rosyth 2040/11, 2305/11.

1023 Aircraft reports periscope in 56° 50' N. 4° 8' E. at 1023 moving East (R.A.(S) 1417/11)

1010 H.M.S. WINDSOR reports (doubtful) contact in V.D.S.E. 50° 15' N. 02° 00' W. Searched for 100 minutes and rejoined convoy. (WINDSOR 1231/11)

1910 54° N. 10° 40' W. position approx. (West of Ireland) May be homeward bound (D.N.I. 1142/12)

1230 Enemy submarine position V.D.S.E. 1500. ACHERON, VEGA and WHITSHED ordered to hunt (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1430, 1439 and 1456/11). No contact obtained (ACHERON 1901/11)

North Atlantic

? time A.M. Reported by French hear Arosa Bay. Reported by Norwegian ship which was stopped (D.C. 2038/12) (Consul Vigo 1205/12).

S/m's attacked

1120 S/m sighted in vicinity of Plymouth loops. Exercises cancelled. Trawler to assist hunt. S/m H.43 to return to harbour on surface. (C. in C.W.A. 1120/11.) Boat attacked inside loop (C. in C.W.A.1158/11) WOLVERINE and LONDONDERRY patrol line 60° and 320° respectively from position 45° Eddystone 4 miles. (C. in C.W.A. 1255/11). WOLVERINE to take BRAZEN under orders and hunt for U-boat which appears to be still inside/

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING (Contd.)

inside loop. Area between loop and breakwater to be completely searched. Trawlers withdrawn to Cawsand Bay. (C. in C.W.A. 1613/11). WOLVERINE lost contact, returning inside loop (WOLVERINE 1737/11). Possible a second U-boat may have bumped a tug outside loops at 1105 today. Orders to GRENADE, ENCOUNTER, LONDONDERRY and WHITEHALL (C. in C.W.A. 1756/11). WHITEHALL to continue A/S searches outside loop during daylight tomorrow (C. in C.W.A. 2247/11). A tug subsequently reported having struck a submerged object outside the loops at 1105. Three attacks by trawlers 1135. Tug arriving from Eastward reported having been over submerged object in 128 degrees Rame Head 4.8 miles outside loops. WOLVERINE attacked firm contact in 112 degrees Rame Head 6.5 miles. No definite results from any attacks. Sweeping being carried out. Port considered safe for merchant traffic 2100 (C. in C.W.A. 1054/12)

0630 Havre reports s/m 49° 50' N. 02° 05' W. heading south (Adty. 1226/12).

S/m's positions (I.C. 0295/39).
Two more may now have reached Western Approaches from North. (D.N.I. 1143/12). There may be two in the Eastern half of the Channel.

War Diary

11. 12. 39.
Monday.

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING

Home Commands

HESSEN ... ... Departure midnight 11/12 loaded with 12,000 tons ore (Narvik 1330/1).
Arrival 11/12 German ship name unknown (do)

CHRISTIAN RUSS ... Has arrived (Oslo 1557/11)

FESCHENHEIM ... ... Sailed Narvik 0001/11 loaded with ore (D.N.I. 1802/11)

THESEUS .. .. Arrived Trondheim (Trondheim 1215/11)
Unknown cargo steamer passed southbound 1030/11 (Tromsoe 1120/11)

ALEXANDRA, FLORA ... ... Passed Danish coast during night 11/12 (Esbjerg 1200/12)

SIERRA CORDOVA ... Left Riga 9/12, damaged by bomb returned to Riga. German circles say incendiary bomb (Press Bureau)

North Atlantic

Reliable source reports German arrived from Berlin 10/12 via Barcelona to take charge of all ships. Held meeting of all masters 11/12 (Consul Vigo 2115/11).

South Atlantic

BABITONGA ... ... Leaving here after Xmas accompanied by 2 other German ships from Brazilian ports and a s/m for Hamburg (S.O.(I) Freetown 2330/11).

DRESDEN .. .. Reported to be short of fuel (do)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

French ships — Arrivals and departures, Gibraltar (S.O.(I) Gib. 0950/11, 1402/11, 1062/12).

East Indies.

Embargo — Control of enemy exports commenced with cargoes leaving Mediterranean ports 11/12 and Home Waters 4/12. Control on East Indies station will normally be exercised at Aden. Perim Patrol to carry out preliminary examination duties as far as possible, pending provision of armed boarding steamer. Shipping plying between Italy and her colonies is not to be detained for examination unless there are special grounds for so doing.

Censorship of shipping movements — Proposed relaxation of censorship rules to allow information regarding times of arrival to be communicated between shipping agents at various ports. This would considerably speed up shipping. Degree of censorship to depend on likelihood of enemy action at the time (C. in C.E.I. 1139Z/11).

Aden C.C. Base — Contraband Control - Aden will be in operation from 0400Z/15 (C.C.S.O. Aden 1330/11).

Perim Patrol — Procedure to be adopted (C. in C.E.I. 0655/11).

North Atlantic

German Arms for Ireland — Portuguese police report, D.2., that German merchant vessel at Vigo has loaded arms into several smaller German vessels which sailed for Ireland. Similar information received from Spanish Military C.2.

S/m off Spain — All sources mention German s/m active on Spanish coast (N.A. Lisbon 1521/11).

LEONTIOS TERYAZOS — Greek. Information received that she is possibly proceeding to Germany direct. Left Ferrol 7/12 (S.O.(I) Gib. 1505/11).

French positions — 1200/11 (D.C. 0215/11).

America & W. Indies

HXF 13. — Ocean route (D.T.D. 0458/11).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Casualties

H.M.S. ACHERON's starboard engine was reported out of action at 21.20 in St. Helen's Roads, I.O.W.

MOHAWK proceeding down the Tyne was in collision with a tug. Temporary sea-going repairs will be completed 14/12.

One of the only two a/s trawlers at Clyde was in collision and requires 14 days for repairs. At request of C. in C., Home Fleet, two anti-s/m trawlers have been sailed for the Clyde from Larne.

Unexplained explosions

0925 explosion N.E. of Orfordness. 1140 explosion in 51° 8' N. 1° 31' E. (off Dover) (I.C. 0296/39).

Convoys

Positions of Halifax convoys (Cdr. of Watch 2046/11) ocean convoys (C. in C.W.A. 1313/11)

Nore movements

For period ending 0700/11 (C. in C.Nore 0631/10).

Positions of s/m's.

0700/11. (D.C. 1900/10)

SAN YO MARU — Sailing postponed until 13/12 (Press)

Prevention of scuttling of German merchant ships is of very highest importance (Hd. of M. 1830/11, A Message Home & Abroad 875A).

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea, Northern Area	S.E. Strong to gale	Good
" " Southern Area	S.E. Moderate	Moderate fog patches.
Horns Reef	S.E. Moderate	Good except in rain
Channel	W. Moderate	Moderate
Western Approaches	N.W. Strong	Good, showers.
Outlook	No immediate change.	

Enemy Intelligence

Danish Exports

Exports resume 11/12. Remaining ships released but not returned (N.C.S.O. Esbjerg 2030/11).

U-boats passing Dover Strait

Stated by prisoner that only chance was to follow submerged a merchant ship and using hydrophones (Adty. 2331/11).

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

War Diary.

11th December,1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Magnetic Mine-Laying, Situation.

Ref. my letter 2870/0803/4/12, situation on East Coast has not improved. All channels to Port of London believed closed except (a) to northward via South Edinburgh Channel and Knock Deep; and (b) to the southward via South Edinburgh Channel and thence on wrong side of N. E. Spit Buoy situated N. of Margate. Both routes uncomfortably restricted. Enemy trying to mine Knock Deep and the Would and should they do so situation will become critical. Number of mines exploded by trial sweeps very small. No authentic case yet of any minelaying aircraft having been brought down by Navy, Army or Air Force. Situation will improve as soon as we have a seagoing sweep that can clear long channels at an adequate speed. (C. in C., Nore,1551/11).

T.C.1.

Admiralty 0021/10. Propose French escort take over submarines at 1200/17/12. Estimated position of convoy at that time is 49.44' N., 7.8' W., course 102° 9 knots. More accurate position will be given to Derel Ouest later. Request name of French escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1814/11).

War Diary

11.12.1939.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

HOOD with 4 destroyers arrives Clyde 0800.
BARHAM with 2 destroyers 70 miles west of Blacksod Bay 0730, having been delayed by bad weather. 3 destroyers from Clyde to rendezvous with her as additional protection for escort into Clyde.
Convoy HN4 delayed by S.W. gale and at 0730 was East of Orkneys, EDINBURGH and GLASGOW acting as cover, ordered to Scapa and Rosyth respectively.
VALIANT was to have entered Plymouth p.m. but owing to reported presence of enemy s/m off entrance she remained at sea with her escort of 4 destroyers for the night, and after gun trials proceeded to Bermuda (C. in C. W.A.I. 1054/12).

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Shetlands - 3 cruisers
Between Shetlands and Iceland - 6 cruisers.
Now the N.P. is thoroughly organised and working smoothly there is no objection to V.A. Horton relinquishing appointment to take up appointment of R.A.(S). Essential that appointment of R.A.(S) be held in wartime by officer who has commanded a s/m in war time (Naval Secy. 1006/11).

Operation J.G.1.

Anti-submarine operation by Humber and Harwich destroyer forces has started. At 7 a.m. the two forces, five destroyers each from Humber and Harwich, are sweeping towards each other W. of Terschelling. Air forces are co-operating with anti-submarine air patrols and six Blenheim fighters patrolling the area.
The force returned to their bases daylight 12/12. No contact was made with s/m's.
Air co-operation was hampered by bad visibility.

Air Reconnaissances

In addition to normal air searches, special A/S air patrols to be carried out 11/12 in following areas:-

(a) W. of Hebrides.
(b) S.E. of Fair Island Channel between Orkneys and Rattray Head.
(c) On W. side of German declared mine area, North Sea.
(d) In co-operation with J.G.1.

Enemy Air Activity

1810 BLYSKAWICA fired on unidentified a/c off Harwich.

2nd Detached Squadron

French battle cruiser DUNKERQUE and cruiser LA GLOIRE will be designated second Detached Squadron (Adty. 1720/11, A Message Home 324) French sending 4 or 5 contre torpilleurs to rendez vous with DUNKERQUE (B.N.L.O. Marceau 0949/13).

War Diary.

12.12.39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING (Contd.).

North Atlantic.

a.m. Norwegian SARDINIA was stopped by U-boat 42°15'N., 9°20'W (off Vigo) U-boat dived at approach of French destroyer.

0600 S/M sighted by fishermen at distance 50 yds on surface 1 mile from Ponta Ajuda, Sao Miguel, Azores, AO.(Lisbon 1821/12) (Probably French).

dawn Report from Spanish seamen that S/M was seen inside Salvora Island (Consul Vigo 1242/13).

S/M's Attacked.

1510 A/S trawler LORD LLOYD made 3 attacks on a contact 7 miles south of Kentish Knock Lt. V. (Thames) Oil spread over a large area 51°33'N 1°41'E. (FO (D/C Harwich 1510/12).

1135 A/S trawlers attacked S/M inside loop south of Rame Head. No definite result. Sweeping in progress.

1250 A/S yacht VALENA 50°N 1°38'W 52 miles S.E. of St. Catherines I.O.W. 2 depth charges dropped. No result. A3. (C-in-C Portsmouth 1211/13) (A.S.W.D., 100).

S/M's Positions (I/C 0296/39).

One suspected to be off Plymouth and one S.W. of Isle of Wight 11/12.
One was off Blacksor Bay last evening and may be homeward bound.
One was West of Ushant this morning.
One may be West of Gibraltar (report unconfirmed).

War Diary

12.12.39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

KING EGBERT sunk — 0400 — British (4535 tons) cargo coal, from Tyne to Constantza, in Convoy FS 53 was mined and sunk 4 miles S.W. Haisborough Lt.V. (between Cromer and Yarmouth). 4th Engineer lost, 31 crew and pilot landed at Yarmouth. Ship was in convoy Tyne to Downs and was 8th ship from end of the line, drawing 36'6". (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1400/12). (" " 1800/12).

MARWICK HEAD sunk. — 0815 — British coaster (496 tons) Boness to London not in convoy was mined off Yarmouth. Five survivors were landed and taken to hospital, six still missing (1120/12, C-in-C., Nore).

A ship is reported mined off Falsterbo and blocking the channel in territorial waters. (Probably in the German minefield which apparently extends into the 15 ft, channel.

TORO — Seen Enemy intelligence.

S/M's Reported. — Information that U-Boats are apparently operating off Ejaling Bay outside territorial waters at night. Details. (Capt.(D) Milford Haven 1650/12).

0023 — 48°30'N 8°0'W position approximatly (IC0296/29).

1546 — 55°34'N 4°E. Reliable position (D.N.I 1607/12).

1430 — 52°29'N 2°23'E. Sighted on surface by M/S group.

1600 — 53°23'N 5°0'E. Off Vlieland. See Enemy intelligence.

1030 — British KYLEGORM sighted S/M off Cap La Hague heading south.

1747 — Trawler VALERIAN chasing suspicious vessel from 5A Buoy off Lowestoft course E.S.E. BLYSKAWICA ordered with all despatch to assist. (C-in-C., Nore, 1747/12). If suspicious vessel not found, ordered to return Harwich by daylight (C-in-C., Nore, 1934/12).

0700 — U-Boat in position 42°13'N., 9°20'W. (D.N.I 1616/12)

0100 — S/M sighted stopped on surface by Shields tanker ERMINE, 25 miles W. by N., The Smalls. Good visibility, light breeze. 200 yards off S/M sighted again 0700/12, 15 miles The Smalls bearing E. by S., watched submerging (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1215/13).

0730 — S/M, nationality unknown, sighted in Galway Bay, (N.A. Dublin 0825/14).

1030 — S/M, nationality unknown, sighted in Lough Swilly. (N.A. Dublin 0825/14). Apparently the two above reports were made en clair on 12/12. N.A. Dublin's 0825/14 was delayed owing to being cyphered by a table not supplied to W.R.

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING

Home Commands (Contd.).

North Atlantic.

RIO DE JANEIRO	Reported to have taken fresh provisions and 300 tons coal. Departure appears imminent (Consul Vigo 2115/11) French source reports she left Vigo night 11/12 (S.O.(I) Gib.2204/12). Confirmed she sailed (Consul Vigo 0900/13).
THALIA	Left Rio Guadelquivir 1540/12 having loaded considerable amount of fuel oil (do).
JOAO PESSOA	Sailed from Vigo night 11/12 (D.N.I 2222/12).
GEORGIA	Reported sailed Vigo night 11/12 (C-in-C W.A. 2349/12).
PIONIER	Left Las Palmas 2300/12 (S.O.(I) Gib.1134/13). German ship expected here 13/12 or 14/12 (Huelva 1540/12).

South Atlantic.

TACOMA	At Montevideo, will complete taking 1600 tons oil fuel tomorrow 13/12. Considered she will then be ready to sail at any moment but no indication of immediate departure (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1947/12).

China.

Cruacao reports German ships are bunkering. A.2. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1155/12).

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

BREMEN	See Enemy Intelligence.
BOLHEIM	See Finno-Russian War.
LAS PALMAS) NESTOR) NORDEN)	Lying in stream (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1400/12).
ELIZABETH	Sailed (do)
HESTIA	Carrying rolls of canvas painted in Swedish colours to hang over sides (do).
NEUENFELS	Southward 1450 in cargo (V.C. Haugesund 1509/12).
LUNA	Has sailed from here (Oslo 1423/12).
URANUS	Has arrived (do).
BOCHIRN	Southbound in cargo (V.C. Haugesund 1534/12).
KIEL	Arrived Narvik, probably for ore (Narvik 1325/12).
ALTONA) HODUR)	Left Narvik 0200/13 both loaded with ore (do).

Mediterranean.

ITHAKA	Arrived Braila 12/12 with cargo from Soviet Union and Turkey. (G.G. Galatzi 2120/12).

America and West Indies.

PRIWALL	In Valparaiso (Press).
FRANKFURT	In Talcahuano (do).
OSORIO	In Talcahuano (do)
PORTLAND	In Coquimbo (do).
ERLANGER	In Puerto Monti (do).
DRESDEN	At Santos very short of oil fuel. Left Valparaiso 19/10 full (N.A. Santiago 1155/12).
DUSSELDORF	Moored head and stern Valparaiso. Informed D.Z. she will sail before 15/12 (S.O.(I) Callao 0132/12). Report from Curacao that German ships receiving code messages by L/T which Masters return stating undicipherable thus eluding censor. Local Nazi leader who is agent for Horn Reef Line corresponds in same way with German legation Caracas, A.O. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1125/12).
Tanker.	Air service pilot reports sighting unknown tanker stopped east of Bonaire, 1130/12 bows pointing west (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1510/12).

12. 12. 1939,
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.C.1. D. of S.T.'s 2317/27/11. Details of food as deadweight cargo lifted by ships of first Canadian convoy. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1532/12).

Eastern Escort. Admiralty 1525/2. Capt. D., 6th D.F., in SOMALI is Senior Officer Eastern A/S Escort. (list). (C. in C., H.F., 1823/12).

War Diary.

12.12.39.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French Air Line.	Machines of Cie. Aerrenne Aeromaritime to be allowed to call at Freetown.
British positions.	1200/12 (DC 2029/11).
SANTA ELENA	Your 1214/10 SANTA ELENA (Argentine) has arrived Rio de Janeiro and is watched (ANA Rio de Janeiro 1211/11).
LLANFAIR	Due Durham 4/12 not yet arrived (SO(I) Cape Town 1105/12).

America and West Indies.

LORD DELVIN HX 12	Cable ship. Arrangements (HS. of M.1852/12). Sailing telegram (Halifax 1101/12).

North Atlantic.

Convoy positions.	D.C. 1931/12.
French positions.	1200/12 (D.C.0255/12) BNLO Marcean 1845/11.

Mediterranean.

TOURVILLE and COLBERT showing flag on coast of Syria and carrying out contraband control. These sporadic efforts are an embarrassment rather than an assistance (G.C. Med.1901/12).

China.

S/M sighted.	Danish S.S. SIAM reports being stopped 3/11 off Tapa Jaja, Sumatra at 0100 by large S/M which asked for her name in morse (Falmouth 1510/12).
Gunboats.	5 more withdrawn from Yangtse Patrol in October. Three more now to be withdrawn because officers and men needed for war in Europe (Adty notice to Press).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.).

ESTOIA seized. — Press report that Estonian mail steamer ESTOIA which has been missing since 10/12 has been seized by a German warship off Sweden, searched and taken to a German port, believed to be Swinemunde. She was carrying 1110 Polish refugees to Sweden.

Balloon barrage. — Balloon barrage at Leverhusen (Rhine) confirmed (Air Min.0820/12).

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.).

Scapa.	Query as to date of arrival of A.A. equipment and date of return of MASHOBIA (ACOS 1124/12).
M.V's in Dutch waters.	Netherlands Authorities require that Navigation Lights should be shown by Vessels when they are inside Netherlands Territorial Waters. (D.T.D. 1948/12).
S/M's positions	0750/12 (D.C. 2028/11).
Routeing.	Ships bound north from Downs may be routed independently if not bound for Thames or Medway (D.T.D. 2058/12).
Ocean convoys.	2000/12 (ACWA 1334/12).
Economic warfare.	Unwillingness of Dutch ships to undertake to accept control in advance because of recent sinkings of Dutch ships on account of such an undertaking (CCS Port Said 1716/12).

WEATHER.

0400	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea	S.E. to E. Mod. to fresh.	Good, mod. near coast.
Horns Reef	N.E. moderate.	Good.
Channel	S.E. to E. Mod. to fresh.	Moderate
W. Approaches.	N. Light.	Good.
Outlook.	Little change.	

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU	German Naval Officer recently taken prisoner referred in conversation to "the GNEISENAU raid when she was accompained by destroyers". Possibly refers to attack on Northern Patrol 23/11. (IC 0296/39).
Enemy force off Vlieland.	At 2350/12 a report was received from Dunkirk that 2 enemy minsweepers, 2 minelayers, 4 patrol vessels and one or more large S/M's were sighted at 1600 off Vlieland, coast of Holland, steering W. (N.A. Hague 0112/13).
BREMEN	At 0945/12 BREMEN screened by aircraft passed SALMON in position 57°N, 5°45'E 70 miles S.S.W. of Lister Light, Norway, steering 40°. No attack was made. Probably also sighted by A/C (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 2310/12).
DEUTSCHLAND	Reported that she was seen 4 miles West of Rendsburg, proceeding to Wilhelmshaven on 4/12. Reported passed through Canal westbound 4/12 (D.N.I. 1838/12). 7 U-boats of 750 tons are reported to have passed through the Kiel Canal westwards on 3/12.
TORO sunk.	Swedish (1467 tons) mined and sunk 35 miles south of Copenhagen. She had been in the German Contraband Control Base at Swinemunde at the end of November.

12. 12. 1939,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

add DUCHESS, sunk, collision.

Am proceeding with EXMOUTH and DUNCAN. ECLIPSE and ECHO standing by till daylight. Have 24 (?) survivors on board, EXMOUTH and DUNCAN have none. (BARHAM, 0650/12).
Requesting information re complement for casualty list (C.W., 1943, 1944/12). Replies, F.O.C.N.A., 1040/13, C. in C., H.F., 1109/13), C.in.C.,Med, 2247/13.
Account of circumstances of the collision.
BARHAM struck DUCHESS a glancing blow about abreast B gun, eventually capsizing her but apparently not holing her to any marked extent. Other details.
(C. in C., H.F., 1244/13).

War Diary. 12.12.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkneys and Faroes 3 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 4 "
Denmark Strait not patrolled.

Canadian Troop Convoys. 12 destroyers left Clyde p.m. to meet the first Canadian troop convoy, which at 0730/13 was approximately 400 miles East of Newfoundland, escorted by RESOLUTION, REPULSE, FURIOUS and EMERALD. French battle cruiser DUNKERQUE and cruiser GLOIRE left Brest 1700/11 for Halifax, to cover 2nd Canadian Troop Convoy.

Mine Bumper. H.M.S. ILSENSTEIN on passage to Port A will arrive Portland Firth 1200/12.

Air Reconnaissance. Special anti S/M patrols to cover those areas in which it is thought enemy S/M's are most likely to be located on the surface. The normal air patrols across the North Sea (Shetlands - Norwegian Coast) have been discontinued temporarily.

Borkum and Sylt standing patrol. From dusk to midnight 12/12 aircraft of Bomber Command carried out the first Standing Patrol over enemy seaplane bases at Borkum and Sylt. The object of these patrols is to attack enemy aircraft seen taking off or alighting and to enforce black-out conditions at the bases. (Air Min.0010/12) A/C dropped 2 bombs on seaplane base at Borkum and one in harbour (HQ. Bomber Cmd. 225/12).

Enemy Air Activity. At least 15 German Reconnaissance A/C's were located over the North Sea.
Requesting early decision as to who is to be Fortress Commander of Orkneys. Orkneys and Shetlands protected area ordnance came into force 1/12 (FOCOS 1807/12). ACOS to be appointed 15/12 (D of L.D. 1312/13 to W.O. and A.M.).

Casualties. H.M. look-out trawler EMILION anchored near the Goodwin Buoy was hit and damaged by MONTE NAVARJO (Spanish) (Damage was very slight), at 1530. The Spanish ship proceeded without taking any action (V.A. Dover 1937/12). H.M. destroyer DUCHESS was in collision with BARHAM 9 miles W. of the Mull of Kintyre at 0437 and sank at 0503. Estimated casualties 6 officers, 123 ratings.
At 1440/12 an aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm was brought down by the wire of a barrage balloon near Southampton which had been moved. The 4 occupants were killed.

Minefield. Further laying of the deep minefield off Folkestone was successfully carried out.

20th D.F. Minelaying flotilla to be formed consisting of EXPRESS (C.O.) ESK, IVANHOE, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS. To be known as 20th D.F. as from 0001/14/12, (Adty 1304/12).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. (Contd.).

0730 Sighted cruising inside Galway Bay. (C-in-C W.A. 1028/13).

1215 1 U-boat and 2 cruisers sighted by S.S. FINLAND course S.E. in 57°26'N., 4°30'E.

1430 Trawler HALIFAX saw S/M 725 on conning tower 12 miles S.E. Lowestoft steering N.E. nothing suspicious (F.O. I/C Harwich 0910/14).

S/M's off Ireland. Unknown S/M cruising in Galway Bay 0730/13. Intercepted message. (D.N.1649/14). Suspected between Slyne Head and Aran Isle also near Eeragh Islet; persons on shore communicating with them by lights. U.35 was seen in Galway Bay a fortnight before war. Local residents now less friendly to trawlers than before the war. 1/12 deeply laden Belgian motor trawler displaying bright red light about 0001 1/12 to 3/12 in approx. 200° Old Head of Kinsale 20 miles. U-boat also reported using Vantry Harbour, Dingle Bay, all reliable. (Capt. D. Milford Haven 2210/13).

Submarine tracks. Analysis of submarine tracking indicates that U-boats are not at present using the Skagerrak. It is thought that a track between Horns Reef light vessel and position 57°N, 05°E is being used. There appears to be another route in use enclosed by lines joining Northolt W/T station (53°47'N., 08°40'E) and positions 54°30'N., and 55°10'N on meridian 4°25'E. (D.N.I.,1801/13).

North Atlantic.

0100 Two U-boats reported observed alongside German merchantmen* in Vigo harbour.* Tanker ANTARKTIS and S.S. ACHILLES. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0447/13). Not certain these were 2 S/M's, but one. Report that S/M was seen inside Salvora Island dawn 12/1 (Consul, Vigo 1242/13).

S/M's attacked.

1435 By bomber (off Jutland) 54°35'N, 3°41'E (H.Q.C.C. 0035/14). The position is inside one of our own S/M patrol areas.

1336 By LADY ELSA 6 miles N.N.E. of the buoy placed by LORD LLOYD off Kentish Knock, result unknown, destroyer standing by. Appears successful (F.O. I/C Harwich 1350/13) (A.S.W.D., 100).

1403 By A/S Trawler CAPE SIROTOKO 170° Portland Bill 5 miles. Small quantity of oil. (F.O.I/C Portlan 2218/13).

1920 DINTAIL 164°Portland Bill 7 miles. D/C's dropped. No visible result. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1120/14).

War Diary

13.12.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

WILLIAM HALLETT — H.M.S. Trawler, 202 tons, sunk by mine 3½ miles E.S.E. St. Mary's Light. One survivor picked up by trawler BEN ARTHUR (C-in-C., Rosyth 1306/13). 8, including Skipper, missing.

DEPTFORD 1200 sunk. — British 4034 tons, under charter to H.M. Government was torpedoed one mile off Honningsvaag Sound, Start. (N.C.S.D. Aalsund says approx, ¼ mile N.N.W. of Honningsvaag Sound), near Trondhjeum 62°1 10'N and sank immediately. Cargo pyrites. (Aalesund Radio 1218/13). 5 (?7) saved of crew 30. 2 Norwegian pilots missing. Sheiwas within Norwegian territorial waters when torpedoed. 3rd case in last few days of violation of Norwegian neutrality the others being THOMAS WALTON and GARAUFALIA. (Admiralty communique 14/12). (D.C. 0905/14) torpedoed without warning (N.A. Oslo 0935/14. Narvik delaying further sailings pending instructions (Narvik 1814/13). Approved no ships to be sailed until further orders (Adty. 1134/14). (A.S.W.D., 100) Inquiry found that she was only ½ mile off the coast.

ALGOL sunk — Swedish 978 tons, sunk by German mine off Falsterbo, close to spot where TORO sank 12/12. Six of crew, including injured pilot, saved.

ROSA 1345 sunk — Belgian 1850 tons sank 6½ miles off Tyne breakwater. Cause of explosion unknown. 1 k., 2 injured, remainder of crew of 15 saved. Tyne closed and mines swept up. (N.O. I/C Blyth 1847/13).

S/M's reported.

1300 — By HAMMOND O.I.O.L.W.T. 15.

1300 — By Trawler KINGS COURT, periscope 3 miles 90° Cockel Lt. V. (N.O.I/C Yarmouth 1613/14 15 miles 010° from Yarmouth. 2 trawlers hunting. (C-in-C., Nore 1556/13). (F.O. I/C Harwich 1428/13).

1800 — S/M sighted by French aircraft near Laraidhe, Morocco, at 1800/13. (D.N.I., 004/13 from French Admiralty).

2100 — By D.F. position 53°50'N., 5°42'E., reliable fix. (D.N.I.2148/13).

1536 — By D.F., position 54°40'N., 04°10'E., (reliable fix (D.N.I., 1612/13).

1140 — By D.F., unknown enemy surface unit, 56°30'N., 02° 30'E., unreliable fix (D.N.I., 1153/13).

1545 — By A/C on patrol 54°51'N., 6°29'E, two ships and one S/M (H.Q.C.C.0035/14).

1548 — By seme A/C S/M stationary on surface. (do).

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands.

Norwegian pilot reports German ship laden with iron ore passed Aalesund 0930/13 bound south (Aalesund 1615/13).

KRONOS)
CHRISTIAN)
RUSS) — Have sailed (Oslo 1533/13).

CLEOPATRA — Has arrived (do).

NEW YORK — Reported by Press arrived Hamburg from Murmansk.

THESEUS)
PERONIA) — Sailed (Trondheim 1600/13).

CASABIANCA)
HELUAN) — Arrived 13/12 (N.C.S.O Gothenburg 1510/13).

IDAJOERK — Sailed (do).

South Atlantic.

? UNITAZ — Report received that large vessel was sighted 18 or 19 Nov. 500 miles W.N.W. Cape of Good Hope, nationality unknown, 5 or 6 motor craft in attendance. Description resembles German UNITAZ, oil refiner ship employed in Antartic, last heard of in Hamburg April 1939. (C-in-C E.I. 0747/13).

WINKHUK — Reported sighted about a week ago at sea. Masters to break W/T silence and report any German ship of whose identity they are certain (C-in-C S.A. 1157/13).

North Atlantic.

? ENTRERIOS — A/C sighted vessel flying Italian flag 0830/13, believed name ENTRERIOS. Reliability of report B.1, of vessel's name C.5 (C-in-C W.A.1733/13).

ARUCAS — Vigo reports 1745 ARUCAS preparing to sail (F.O.C. NA. 2000/13). German ship expected to arrive Huelva 13/12 or 14/12 A.O. (S.O.(I) Gib.1136/13).

America and West Indies.

DÜSSELDORF — At Valparaiso. Reported lying at slip and will sail tonight 13/12 (S.O.(I) Callao 1640/13). Left at 0001/14 G.M.T. (S.O.(I) Kingston 2220/13).

ARAUCA — Sailed 1820 Z+6/13 cleared for New Orleans (S.O. (I) Kingston 2203/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.).

TAIROA
STREONSHALH — As result of report from Captain of DORIC STAR it is established that in addition to the ships mentioned above the SPEE sank on 3/12 S.S. TAIROA (8000 tons) from Brisband to Durban, 1000 miles N.W. of Capetown, and on 7/12 S.S. STREONSHALH (3,900 tons), 900 miles East of Rio de Janeiro, from Montevideo to Freetown. Her first sinking of 9 was CLEMENT, 30/9 (N.A. Buenos Aires, 2255/14), ARK ROYAL and RENOWN who were to eastward of Pernambuco, proceeded with NEPTUNE to fuel at Rio de Janeiro (due 17/12). Due Plate 18/12. NEPTUNE due a little latter after fuelling at Rio. (C-in-C S.A.07/4114).

Force H. — SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE is returning to Cape Town for fuel. See 14/12.

Force X. — DUPLEIX, FOCH and HERMES to Freetown to fuel.

Force I. — CORNWALL and EAGLE returning to Durban for boiler cleaning. DORSETSHIRE should arrive Plate (C-in-C S.A. 0940/14) about 21/12 had already left the Cape for South America.
Casualties of GRAF SPEE reported 40 k. 60 w. ACHILLES, officers, ratings 4 k. 1 seriously w. 94 w. AJAX, officers 0, ratings 7 k, 5 w (seriously) EXETER officers 5 k, 3 w, ratings 56 k, 20 w.
SPEE oiled from Naval Tanker ALTMARK 6/12 in 23° S, 26°W, 240 miles S.E. Trinidad Is. (I/C 0299/39).

TAIDRA — Due here 11/12 has not arrived (S.O.(I) Freetown, Sierra Leone 1445/13).

Mediterrean.

C.C.Italian ships. — Italian Govt. prepared to co-operate fully. No objections except as regards control at Port Said. Resentment at delay and diversion of ships subsequently released as innocent. Organisation at Malta, Haifa, Port Said being overhauled again. (C-in-C Med. .1307/12).
Re. possibility of using the Roumanian S.S.BESSARABIA and TRANSYLVANIA at present laid up in Constanza, as troop transports (D.S.T.1313/13).

Allied shipping. — Measures to be taken to expedite movements of Allied shipping at defended ports. (C-in-C Med. 2003/13).

War Diary.

13.12.39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(Cont.).

S/M in Freetown area. Probability of S/M in Freetown area. Essential that destroyers rendezvous and escort Force K. to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 2207/13/12).

Orders to Cdre. S.A.D. Unless south of square I 34 rendezvous with NEPTUNE and destroyers and proceed to Freetown with all despatch to refuel. (C. in C. S.A. 1547/13/12 to Cdre. S.A.D.).

NEPTUNE. Position. Destroyers in company. Suggestion to leave the destroyers. (NEPTUNE 2030/13/12). Orders to join Cdre. S.A.D. off River Plate (C.in C. S.A. 2355/13/12).

Intend to establish patrols with Forces K, X and I on lines between Freetown and North East Brazil coast as there seems little possibility of Force K being able to arrive in time to render C.O.S.A. Division A.W.I Sqn. any assistance. A squadron of flying boats would render patrol more effective. Force I to proceed to Freetown after fuelling at Cape port (C.in C. S.A. 1743/13/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

"Battle of the River Plate". M.017675/39. Decision that the Naval Battle off the coast of Uruguay be called the "Battle of the River Plate".

GRAF SPEE, Search for. Search for Raider, C. in C., S.A., 1702/6/12, 1242/12, 1742/22/11, 1855/18/11, 0911/9/11, C. in C., Africa, 1250/30/10 was cancelled, C. in C., S.A., 1219/7/12, 1945/7/12, 1225/11/12, 1520/13/12 (Force X return to Dakar with all despatch, refuel, and be prepared to sail again to prevent escape of enemy to northward), C. in C., S.A., 1547/13/12, 1743/13/12, 1st S.L., 0146/14, leave destroyers behind if they delay you.

Force I. Force I at Durban now at your disposal. (D.C.N.S. to C. in C., S.A., 1616/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French positions convoys. 1200/13 (D.C. 0051/13).

China.

SCHEER — Rumour in Batavia that SCHEER is now off Sumatra between Sabang and Padang. No confirmation. Quotes some D/F bearings 12/12 from Stonecutters (Chief of I. Staff, Far East, Singapore 0919/13). The attitude of Japanese towards our ships on high seas since outbreak of European war has been singularly correct. (Adty. 1148/12, C-in-C China 0346 Z/13).

America and West Indies.

Convoys. Estimated convoy situation 1200 GMT/13. (V.A. 3 B.S 1646/11).

LORD KELVIN — Cable ship. Where working. In view of proximity of American coast Naval cover not considered essential (Capt. H.M.C. D. Halifax 1029/13).

South Atlantic.

Ships' positions. D.C. 2005/13.

ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE

See also 17/12 for her destruction and other matters concerning her.

Pocked battleships sighted by Cdre. S.A.D Commodore H.H. Harwood O.B.E. in AJAX. 34°N 49°W course 275° (Cdr S.A.D. 0615/13) AJAX and ACHILLES are concentrated and EXETER is in neighbourhood. C-in-C, S.A. and Force X via HERMES informed. (D.G.1524/13). At same time ACHILLES sighted enemy a/c's. EXETER (Capt.F.S. Bell), AJAX (Capt.C.H.L. Woodhouse), ACHILLES (Capt.W.E. Parry) engaged GRAF SPEE (Capt. Haus Langsdorf). 0832 Cdre. reported he had withdrawn from daylight close action on account of a shortage of ammunition and that EXETER was hauling away owing to damage. AJAX two turrets out of action. SPEE was shadowed and took refuge damaged in Montevideo. 2350/13 (SO(I) Montevideo. AJAX and ACHILLES anchored in the Roads, 2355/13). SPEE was reported to have 6 British captains on board evidently from NEWTON BEECH, HUNTSMAN, TREVANION, and ASHLEA, all reported overdue and considered as losses 6/12, AFRICA SHELL sunk 15/11 and DORIC STAR sunk 2/12. EXETER proceeded to Falkland Is. with only 1 gun in action and speed reduced to 15 knots.

NEWTON BEECH
HUNTSMAN
TREVANION
ASHLEA

CUMBERLAND. CUMBERLAND from Falkland Is. proceeded towards the Plate and arrived 0200/15.

War Diary.

13.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Mines. There is a pronounced patch of floating mines covered by a circle of 10 miles radius from a point 45 miles 270° from the Skaw, and several single mines are reported off the South coast of Norway between Lindesnaes and Kristien sand.

Polish S/M's Reported (no confirmation) that Germans are demanding handing over of Polish S/M's interned at Stockholm. N.A. has advised Swedish Naval Staff to prepare them secretly for destruction or sea service. Staff maintain Poland still at war, consequently S/M's to remain interned (N.A.Stockholm 1225/13). Improbable Germans will press claim (D.N.I 1822/24).

Cruisers sighted. Neutral ship S.S. FINLAND reports sighting 2 cruisers with a U-boat and a/c in company 57° 26'N., 4°30'E at 1200. This was 20 miles to northward where 3 enemy destroyers were sighted at 1100. (S(6) 1859/14, N.O.I.C. Blyth 1557/14).

Force off Sylt. Reliable ex-naval observer on Romo Island, five miles north Sylt, plainly saw through his glasses on 13/12 2 submarines, 4 destroyers, 2 depot-ships and seaplanes. (N.A., Copenhagen 1815/15).

ALGOL Swedish, sunk off Falsterbo, see U-Boat campaign and mining.

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

BOLHEIM Unconfirmed report that German BOLHEIM (3324 tons) has been sunk by a Soviet S/M in Gulf of Bothnia and that members of the crew were killed.

KIROV KIROV, one minelayer, 7 S/M's and one S/M depot ship at present lying in harbour, dates of arrivals unknown (V.C. Liepaja (Libau) 1355/13).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

JUPITER) LEDA)	Impossible to arrange special protection, but will have general cover of convoy escort vessels and Home Fleet forces operating in North Sea. (B.C. Bergen 1880/5, 1314/13, Adty. 1826/13).
French destroyers.	Orders for French destroyers meeting DUNKERQUE (B.N.L.O Marceau 1832/13).
ALEX	British, arrived Ymuiden from Murmansk, having left there 28/8, took refuge at Bergen on outbreak of war, later crossed to Newcastle under British warship protection, after which she crossed the North Sea safely (Press Bureau).
Shipping in Downs.	109 ships anchored in Downs. Sailings 74. Traffic stopped for one hour by floating mines in fairway (V.A. Dover 2125/13).
Routeing French ships.	French ships bound North calling Ramsgate and are thence routed to join convoys proceeding from Southend. French ships bound south join south-bound convoys at Ramsgate (French L.O, Southend, 1721/13).
Scapa.	Not yet fit to be brought into use as Fleet base (C-in-C H.F.1426/13).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.North Part.	S.W. Fresh to strong.	Good
South "	E.light to moderate.	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef.	N.E. light to mod.	Good.
Channel	N.E. light to mod.	Mod. to good.
W.Approaches.	S.E. moderate.	Good.
Outlook - Similar.		

War Diary.

13. 12. 1939,
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Canadian Convoy, Movements After Arrival.

On arrival of T.C.1, following movements proposed:-
REPULSE proceed Devonport for seven days' leave.
FURIOUS fly off aircraft on arrival Clyde, give seven days' leave, and then re-embark aircraft.
RESOLUTION to remain at Clyde until required to sail for Halifax about 21/12. (1st S.L., 0035/13).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd).

Enemy air activity.	At 1120 two enemy a/c's flew high over Firth of Forth. Fighter went up but failed to intercept. At least 17 German reconnaissance a/c's were located over the North Sea, mostly near their surface ships in approx. 57°N 4°E. At least two enemy flying boats were damaged by our patrolling aircraft, one was probably unable to return to its base.
Casualties.	H.M. Trawler WILLIAM HALLETT see U-Boat campaign. DEPTFORD see do. VANITY escorting convoy F.N.54 was in collision with an unknown ship. Docked at Immingham for repairs. Will complete 17/12 (F.O. Humber 1044/14.
S/M's position.	0700/13 (D.C.1951/12) Later D.C. 2343/14.
Nore movements.	Expected movements in Nore Command period ending 0700/14 (C-in-C., Nore 0750/13).
Neutral ships at Rosyth.	As from 0800/13 ban on neutral ships proceeding to ports west of Forth Bridge is lifted (C-in-C., Rosyth 1551/13).
Deck marks.	Deck identification marks not to be displayed when north of Lat. 53°N., as from 0001 G.M.T./14. To continue to be used south of 53°N. Identity letters or national markings are to continue to be used. Flying of red and yellow flag (Adty. 1603/26/9) is to be discontinued (D.C.N.S.1924/13 "A" message Home 327 A2).
Scheme A.1.	Is to be instituted forthwith in Harwich, Humber, Newcastle, Rosyth, Aberdeen and Cromarty areas. All lights to be extinguished accordingly (Hd of M 1800/13) Cancel my 1803. Revert to war lighting (Hd. of M 2109/13).
Fishing Area.	Fishing area between 53°50'N and 54°40'N, 1°30'E and 2°40'E has been extended eastwards to 3°E (D.T.D.1706/13).
Ocean Convoys.	Situation 2000/13 (A.C.W.A.1337/13).
East Coast Convoys.	Convoys on East coast were held up when all lights on the east coast were extinguished for several hours (See Scheme A1).
Tyne closed.	The Tyne was closed on account of the sinking of the ROSA at 1345, and mines were swept up in the area.
Unexplained explosions.	1806, approx, 110° 9 miles from Lowestoft A distant explosion was also felt at 1806. (PELICAN 1315/13).
Mining.	At 1215 an unidentified a/c, probably a German flying boat, was seen to drop two spherical metallic objects in the mud near Preston Island in the Upper Firth of Forth. Later. Reported that one of our a/c's was in this position at this time. Not yet cleared up.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet.

C-in-C Home Fleet with HOOD, WARSPITE, BARHAM and seven destroyers sailed from Clyde 2245 to cover the Canadian Convoy in the Atlantic (F.O. Clyde 2245/13).
BERWICK, GLASGOW and DEVONSHIRE concentrating between Iceland and Faroes and proceeding to position 53° 55'N.,25° 0'W. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH sailed from Rosyth 2300 to proceed to Fair Island Channel towards Faroes.
The 4 "C" and "D" class cruisers on patrol between Faroes and Orkneys are concentrating 10 miles south of Faroe Is.

Destroyer search.

3 destroyers from Rosyth, 5 from Humber and 8 from Harwich proceeded to search in following areas respectively: 56° 15'N, 3° 30'E; 54° 55'N, 3° 10'E; 53° 30'N, 4° 0'E. They were ordered to patrol until daylight within 30 miles of these positions and then return to base, carrying out A/S hunts.

S/M patrols.

All available S/M's proceeded to sea, five to patrol 60 miles off the coast covering Rosyth to Tyne and two on the Brown Ridge. Three S/M's at sea have been ordered to patrol the approaches to the Skagerrak and two in Heligoland-Jade area.

German Sortie, SALMON'S attack.

SALMON sighted and attacked an enemy squadron consisting of two or three heavy ships, two 8 inch cruisers, and two 6 inch cruisers, 130 miles west of Jutland, steering west. LEIPZIG was hit and possibly other ships were damaged (SALMON 1020/13 0445/14) Capt. S. (3) 1345/16. (Sighting of same forces by neutral ships see Enemy Intelligence). Later reported that BLUCHER was one of the 2 cruisers hit by SALMON attack stated to have been witnessed by merchant vessel. Try to get in touch (D.N.I 1158/18).

Air Reconnaissance

Special anti S/M patrols as 12/12 repeated. The normal Shetlands - Norwegian coast patrol was resumed.

R.A.F. fail to attack, and hunt S/M. in our patrol area.

At 0945 reconnaissance a/c's sighted German destroyers steering E.N.E. in position 120 miles west of Bovhiers Lt. (Jutland) Further reports of destroyers on an easterly course were received, but doubt again arose over their identity as they were showing British distinquishing signals. They were, however, in the free bombing area declared by the Adty. overnight (D.C.N.S.) but D.C. 2000/13 says a/c's attacked them. At 1435 a bomber bombed a S/M inside one of our own patrol areas. (H.Q.C.C. 0035/14). At 1545 the same a/c saw a S/M and 2 ships stationary well over towards the Danish coast, and also 7 ships heading North at high speed in line abreast. No attack on these targets is reported. (H.Q.C.C. 0035/14).

War Diary

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING (Contd.)

S/m's attacked (Contd.)

2155 WINCHELSEA and VANOC attacked contact 15 miles N.W. Holyhead. Doubtful whether s/m. 323° 12½ miles Skerries Lt. (WINCHELSEA 2155/14, 2220/14 (A.S.W.D. 102) WARWICK joined hunt 0400/15.

1200 By GRENADE 172° Portland Bill 12 miles. No details (I.C. 0299/39). VEGA and WHITSHED sent to assist (A.S.W.D. 102).

War Diary

14. 12. 39.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

ATHEL TEMPLAR	1140	Tanker 8939 tons from Abadan to Invergordon in convoy was mined (but erroneously reported torpedoed) 12 miles East of Tyne. Being towed to Tyne. (FLAMINGO 1149/14, 1157/14, 1252/14, 1318/14). FLAMINGO now reports probably mined (C. in C. Rosyth 1537/14. Position 55° 5' N. 1° 7' W. (FLAMINGO 1149/14). An a/c was ordered to attack s/m (Donibristle 1226/14). 38 of crew saved, 2 missing (D.S.)
INVERLANE	1140	Tanker 9141, tons, from Abadan to Invergordon in convoy with ATHEL TEMPLAR was mined (but erroneously reported torpedoed) off Tyne. Last reported afloat but on fire. (FLAMINGO 1149/14, 1157/14, 1252/14). FLAMINGO now reports probably mined (C. in C. Rosyth 1537/14) Now ashore near Roker (5 miles West Hartlepool 0805/16). 3 survivors from crew of 40 (D.S.)
JAMES LUDFORD sunk	0957	M/S trawler, blown up on same minefield as above, 17 lost, including chief skipper, D.MacArthur R.N.R. and Lt. Com. H.R.J. Lewis, R.N. (retired) one saved (F.O.i/c Tyne 1930/14) 55° 2' 50" N. 1° 15' 50" W. 2 officers and 15 ratings lost (Casualty list 15/12).
KELLY damaged	1617	Mined in the same minefield as above. No casualties. See Casualties, Home Commands.
EVALINA missing believed sunk		H.M. (Lookout) Trawler, operating in Tyne area, overdue since 0900/14. Believed sunk in same minefield.
SEDGEFLY missing believed sunk		H.M. A/S Trawler. As EVALINA.

S/m's reported	1734	58°5' N. 1°4' E. Unidentified unit. Position approx.(I.C. 0299/39)
	1824	56°10' N. 0°40'E. Reliable position. (D.N.I. 1850/14).
	1743	By D/F unidentified enemy unit possibly U-boat approx. 120 miles S.E. of Fair I. Channel. (D.N.I. 1850/14) (? is this same as 1734 above)
	2138	By D/F unknown enemy unit 55°N.2°48'E. Reliable fix (D.C.2202/14).
	1505	U-boat seen by trawler in 54°33'N. 0°27'W., conning tower half showing steering S.E. on tail of F.N. Convoy. Trawler's wireless broke down but passed information to escort vessel by lamp. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1439/15).

North Atlantic.

Report from secret source Cadiz entry into inner harbour during night of Dec. 13 approximately three U-boats, sailing after two hours. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1832/16).

S/m's attacked	0925	A/c attacked s/m on surface with bombs, 150 miles E. of Aberdeen. No hits. Destroyers hunted. No contact (A/c 233 Sqn. Duty T. 0925/14).
	1540	A/s trawler LORD WAKEFIELD attacked a contact off Swansea. (LORD WAKEFIELD 1810/14). No definite result. 18° 8' 5 miles E.N.E. of Bull Point. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 1901/14) (Probably not a s/m).

War Diary

14. 12. 39.
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ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands

German ore ship speed 10 knots steaming south in territorial waters, Lat. 60° 1200 /14 (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem 1800/14).

German ships BAERENFELS, GOLDENFELS and KELLERWALD arrived Narvik, probably for ore (Narvik 1212/15).

America & West Indies.

DUSSELDORF .. .. Left Valparaiso 0000 GMT. Raining, visibility bad (Callao 2000/13). Passed Coquimbo 1930, 12 miles off Northbound presumably to Antofagasta speed 10 knots (Callao 2235/14).

PRIWALL .. .. .. School sailing ship, is the only German ship remaining in harbour (Press) (Last reported at Talcahuano).

ARAUCA .. .. .. Sailed in direction of New Orleans (Press) (From Vera Cruz) Delayed by weather. Sailed 0745 2+6 14/12 (SO(I) Kingston 1420/14).

COLUMBUS .. .. Sailed early 14/12 (Press) (From Vera Cruz→ Left (Vera Cruz) 1222 Z+5 (SO(I).) Kingston Jamaica, 1255/14). Mexican tanker delivered to her 21000 barrels of oil fuel (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 2120/14).

FRISIA .. .. .. Now moored in Fuik Bay (S.O.(I) Kingston 1440/14)

ALEMANIA .. .. Seems likely she did not sail { -do- }

?897 .. .. In Caracas Bay .. .. { -do- }

North Atlantic

THALIA .. .. .. Arrived Huelva 1400/13 is loading oxide iron and expected to sail 15/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2250/14) Left Seville 12/12 (F.O.C.N.P. 1201/14).

SEVILLA } .. .. 1330 both show signs of activity. Former has
PORTO } steam up. (F.O.C.N.A. 2359/14).

RIO DE JANEIRO left Vigo 12/12. (F.O.C.N.P. 1201/14).

PIONIER .. .. .. left Las Palmas 12/12 { -do- }

JAOAPESSOA .. .. left Vigo 12/12 .. .. { -do- }

PUERTO DE PIER Arrived 13/12 for orders (Huelva 0945/14).

China

WERDENFELS }
LINDENFELS } Have been sequestered on behalf of A.P.C.
WASGENWALD } (Press Bureau).

South Atlantic

ALTMARK .. .. oiled GRAF SPEE 6/12 23° S. 26° W. understood she is prepared to paint U.S.S.R. and fly Russian flag. Has concealed guns behind deck house (N.A. Montevideo 2049/14).

War Diary.

14.12.1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Convoy.

Decided, in conjunction with Commonwealth Government, to reinforce RAMILLIES as ocean escort by addition of two 8-in. cruisers between Fremantle and Colombo. Desired to use Force M. for this purpose. (C.N.S., 2020/14) to B.N.L.O.,Marceau). Admiral Darlan agrees in use of Force M. (B.N.L.O.,Marceau, 1041/15).

War Diary. 14.12.39.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Cont.)

South Atlantic (Cont.)

Force K. To proceed to Plate (1st S.L. 0026/14/12).
Refuelling (1st S.L. 0046/14/12).
Leave destroyers behind if they delay you (1st S.L. 0146/14/12).
Instruct destroyers to return to Freetown if you do not require them to screen you. (C in C., S.A. 0645/14/12 to Force K.)

Destroyers. To join Force K after fuelling at Pernambuco (C. in C., S.A. 0650/14/12).

Fuelling. Cdre. S.A. D. to give other instructions if situation requires. NEPTUNE being sent owing to shortage of ammunition in AJAX and ACHILLES (C. in C. S.A. 0659/14/12).

ARK ROYAL
RENOWN
NEPTUNE.
Destroyers.
HARDY.
HERO.
HOSTILE.
Refuelling at Rio de Janeiro (heavy ships) and Pernambuco (destroyers) and keeping movements of ARK ROYAL and RENOWN secret as long as possible. (C.in C. S.A. 0714/14/12).

DORSETSHIRE. Proceed to Plate (C. in C., S.A. 0940/14/12).

CUMBERLAND. Reporting her position and movements (CUMBERLAND 1917/14/12).

NEPTUNE. do. and fuel requirements etc. (NEPTUNE 1947/14/12)

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

(Cond.)

South Atlantic

EXETER'S wounded

Re. off of Argentine Govt. to care for wounded (at Puerto Belgrano). Presume wounded so landed would be interned. Acceptance left to your discretion. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1240/14. D.C.N.S. 2006/14 to EXETER). They would be interned (Sir E. Overy (Buenos Aires) No. 348/14).
Harbour and port facilities at Bahia unsuitable for ships of this size. No stocks of diesel oil suitable for Adty. requirements. Rio de Janeiro in all respects satisfactory. (Sir G. Knox 145/14 in reply to F.O. 112).
Undesirable to disclose damage to EXETER. Suggest she should only be diverted to Pueble Belgrano to save life or land personnel incapacitated from further fighting (C. in C.S.A. 2215/14).

Merchant vessels to sail.

Instructions given to Montevideo to re-commence sailings of British merchant vessels (D.C.N.S. 2007/14, in reply to S.O.(I) Montevideo 1228/14 saying that Cdre. S.A.D. had asked him to use every possible means to delay sailing of SPEE) SPEE started the firing. ACHILLES replied in self-defence. (Cdre. S.A.D. 1130/14).

Violation of neutrality zone

German s/m's.

C3. The s/m's have been called up from the South and ordered to station themselves 50 miles apart 25 miles from coast opposite Punta San Jose Ignacio, Paraguay. They were called up last night and they reckon that within 48 hours we shall have no squadron. Am investigating report that was not considered reliable that 2 s/m's fuelled at Camerones district (N.A. Buenos Aires 1512/14). Information here most unlikely U-boats in S. Atlantic (.D.N.I.1305/15).

Force H.

After completing with fuel provisions and stores Force H. is to sail at 20 knots for Freetown. If situation alters and Force K. returns to Freetown, Force H. will return to Cape. (But see 15/12).

Force I.

Force I. is to remain at Cape ports until further orders (C. in C.S.A. 0950/14)

SPEE

Every effort being made to have SPEE interned. If Uruguayan Authorities will not intern her we should prefer ships to remain 4 or 5 days. (Hd. of M. 2037/14).
Masters of ships are to break W/T silence and report any German ship of whose identity they are certain (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1917/14).

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

North Atlantic

French positions — D.C. 0741/14.

Leakage of Information — Captain of SATURNIA had information before his arrival at Azores that he would be boarded off Lisbon (S.O.(I) Gib. 1758/14).

Navigation lights. — British merchant vessels sailing independently Westward bound in North Atlantic should normally show dimmed navigation lights when North of Lat. 35° N. and between Long. 25° W. and 48° W. (A.C.N.S. 1824/14).

East Indies

DEUTSCHLAND — Reported last week DEUTSCHLAND stopped a Dutch ship in Madagascar waters (Cable intercept).

C.C. Base Aden — See Mediterranean.

Movements — Colombo arrivals 14/12 (S.O.(I) Colombo 1144Z/14).

America & West Indies

N.C.S. Staff Montreal — N.C.S. Staff separate from Quebec has now been established at Montreal (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1449/14).

Mediterranean

French movements — S.O.(I) Gib. 1112/14.

Contraband Control — At present it is necessary to divert ships plying in Aegean to Malta or Haifa to ensure contraband is not moved between Black Sea and Aegean ports. These cargoes often perishable. Urgently necessary to establish some strict system of guarantees and clearances. Alternative and more satisfactory arrangements would be to try and organise some system of voluntary control (C. in C. Med. 1233/14).

Varna mined — Reliable source reports that Varna has been mined and is patrolled day and night by Bulgarian destroyers (IC. 0299/39).

C.C. Base Aden — Small C.C. Base in operation at Aden from 0400Z/15 (C. in C.E.I. 09412/14 (? 0941Z/14) Possibility of German merchant ships from Massawa preferring scuttling themselves in Suez Canal rather than in open sea must be considered (C. in C.Med. 2007/13).

War Diary

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FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR

At Uto (?14/12) two Russian destroyers were engaged in low visibility at about 10,000 metres. One was hit, whereupon the other covered her with a smoke screen and was herself engaged. Both destroyers then retired and shortly afterwards a heavy explosion was seen on the horizon.

H O M E C O M M A N D S (Contd.)

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea - North Part	S. Strong	Mod. or poor
" " South "	Light, variable	Mod. or poor
Horns Reef	S.E. Mod.	Mod. to good
Channel	S. Mod. to fresh	Poor
W. Approaches ..	N. Fresh to strong	Moderate

Outlook: Weather deteriorating in Channel and South part of North Sea. Elsewhere visibility improving.

Enemy Intelligence

Mines — Seven of crew of Swedish battleship MANLIGHETEN killed when investigating apparently a floating mine. (Press) Explosion took place in territorial waters.

Naval forces at sea — 1 enemy battleship, 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers were sighted by A/c in 54° N. 8° E., 10 miles S. of Heligoland at 1425, steering towards Wilhemshaven. These were probably some of the units which had taken part in the sortie on 13/12 (IC. 0299/39).
An unidentified enemy unit was located in 55° N. 2° 50' E. (150 miles E. of Tyne) at 2138/13 (I.C. 0299/39).

New C. in C. — Reliable report that Admiral Marschall relieved Admiral Boehm as C. in C. of German Fleet at beginning of November. C. in C. normally flies this flag in GNEISENAU. First German account of sinking of RAWALPINDI emanated from Admiral Marschall. This evidence strengthens previous estimate that GNEISENAU took part in action on 23/11 off S.E. coast of Iceland.

Surface ships s/m's. off Norway. — Norwegian Admiral states 40 German surface ships have been sighted lately off Norwegian coast. Several German s/m's. have been seen during last few days (N.A. Oslo 1340/14).

German ships in Baltic — In Baltic north of Lat. 58° all German ships must fly National flag even at night and floodlight it so it is easily recognisable. (Rugen Radio 1510/14).

Lulea closed — Lulea now closed. 5 German ships iced in (A.N.A. Stockholm 1730/14). (See 14/11).

Minelayers for Bulgaria — Germany is sending two minelayers via Danube to Bulgaria. B2. (N.A. Angora 1145/14).

Norwegian ship detained. — Report from a Captain of Oken's line that ship was stopped by 2 German warships 20 miles S.W. Lindernes Lt., S. Norway. No sign of release of ship yet. (N.A. Oslo 1330/14).

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR

War Diary. 14.12.1939,
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

KELLY Mined. KELLY struck mine in position 55° 05' N., 01° 2½' W., and is endeavouring return to harbour under own steam, steering gear out of action, request tugs (Capt. (D) 5, 1617/14). Tug which came for British ship ATHELTEMPLAR now towing KELLY back to Tyne, request another tug to ATHELTEMPLAR. KELLY mine position marked Dan buoy. No casualties. (Capt. (D) 5, 1625/14). MOHAWK escorting (MOHAWK, 1727/14). KELLY docked and in hand at Hawthorn Leslie's, description of damage (N.C.I.C., Newcastle, 1858/15).

Investigation appears to show that KELLY hit a moored mine which bounced 4 times off bottom of ship then touched both propellers, when mooring was cut and finally exploded in starboard propeller wash (5 D.F., 1326/17).

URSULA, German cruiser sunk. At 1132, 14th December, in position V L J N 0654, sank enemy cruiser, German cruiser KOLN class, inward bound screened by six destroyers. (URSULA, 1200/17).

Canadian Convoy. Estimated positions of T.C.1 and of H.X.F.12 and H.X.12. (F.O.C., 3 B.S., 1002/14).

In view of SALMON's 1030/13, etc., strong force may have broken out and you should cover passage of T.C.1. Owing to Dunkerque's position it was not possible for her to join T.C.1. (D.C.N.S., 1931/14, to C. in C., H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Attack on seaplanes

In poor visibility one of our security patrols dropped 5 bombs on seaplanes during the night 14/15, near Rantum.

Casualties

M/S Trawler JAMES LUDFORD mined in minefield where ATHEL TEMPLAR and INVERLANE were mined. KELLY mined 1617 in same minefield. The S.O. convoy reported the two tankers as having been torpedoed and KELLY and MOHAWK who were in the Tyne were ordered to join FLAMINGO in hunting the s/m. It was not until 1530, after the J. LUDFORD had been blown up that it was realised that these casualties were due to mines and not torpedoes. For signals dealing with the incident see U-boat campaign. The s/m hunt was cancelled, but KELLY struck a mine in 40 fathoms and returned to Tyne where she will be docked. No casualties. (N.O.i/c Newcastle on Tyne 2310/14).

H.M. (lookout) Trawler EVALINE
H.M. A/S Trawler SEDGEFLY
} Both operating in Tyne area, overdue since 0900/14, feared mined.

E. coast traffic stopped

After the mining of the KELLY all traffic on the East Coast between Tyne and Blyth was stopped until a channel was swept.
Fighter Command reported an a/c suspected of laying mines, 15'S. 1° W. Ships have been ordered to keep clear of this area.

Routeing of valuable ships

Suggested serious consideration be given to necessity for routeing large oilers and valuable ships like WOOLWICH bound for destinations North of Tyne by East Coast route (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/14).

W. Approaches

Disposition of forces 1800/13 (C. in C.W.A. 1912/13).

Norwegian Patrols

Admiral Diesun states that surface and air patrols are being reinforced on Narvik traffic route. Orders have been given to attack all s/m's. observed submerged in Norwegian territorial waters, knowing it will not affect British s/m's. (Sir C. Dormer (Oslo) No. 351/14).

Convoys
Ocean

Ocean convoys' positions 2000/14 (A.C.W.A.1413/14)
F.N. 55 postponed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1938/14).
Unhandiness of ships in ballast. Masters unwilling to use water ballast on account of cost. Steps should be taken prior to sailing to ensure handiness (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1410/14).
F.N. 14 postponed (C. in C. Nore 2231/14).
N.C.S.O. Bergen reports Norway is considering convoying ships of all nationalities by Norwegian Navy past certain dangerous areas on their coast.

HXF. 13 — ENTERPRISE and EMERALD as ocean escorts for HXF.13. Sailing dates (FOC3BS 0926/14).

HX 11. — Escorted by 2 French s/ms. Position 0815/16 (A.C.W.A. 1009/14).

HOME COMMANDS

URSULA sinks German cruiser.

At 1132/14 URSULA torpedoed and sank a German cruiser of KOLN class (6000 tons), inward bound and screened by 6 destroyers off Heligoland. (? was this one of the two cruisers torpedoed by SALMON 13/12). This area not considered tenable during period of moonlight nights (R.A.(S) 1523/20).

Northern Patrol.

Until further orders ships proceeding to and from patrol line should board any merchant ship encountered, even though this may delay their arrival on patrol or in harbour. But A.M.Cs. are not normally to stop and board south of Lat.59° N. (F.O.C.N.P. 1909/14).

Scandinavian Convoys.

ON5 to leave Methil 1600/14. HN5 to leave point E.17/12 local escort AFRIDI, MAORI, NUBIAN, MOHAWK. (C.in C. Rosyth 1028/10).
Sailing of ON5 postponed (D.T.D.0049/14) owing to possible presence of surface submarines.

Air Reconnaissance. (Air Ministry 0145/14).

Extensive air reconnaissance of North Sea, commencing at daylight (as result of SALMON'S report of German Fleet at sea 13/12).

(a) Diverging search by 5 aircraft from Dunnet Head to a depth of 200 miles between 285° and 330°.
(b) Normal air searches from Shetlands to coast of Norway.
(c) Search by 14 Hudsons 20 miles apart between lines joining Banff and Utsire Light (59° 20' N. on Norwegian coast) and Withernsea to Horns Reef.
(d) Continuous patrol to a depth of 150 miles from Barra Head.
(e) A strong bomber (48 Wellingtons) reconnaissance into Heligoland Bight at daylight to attack enemy warships in Jade River, Schillig Roads, off Wilhelmshaven, or at sea.

The only report of enemy surface vessels, as a result of these reconnaissances was of one battleship, one cruiser and 3 destroyers at 1430/14 off the mouth of the Weser River, steering south. A squadron of our bombers were attacked by about 20 enemy fighters at approximately 1430 in 53° 50' N. 8° E. Four fighters (Press says) were shot down. Three of our aircraft were shot down.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Submarines reported (contd.)

2130 — Approx. 120 miles W.S.W. Land's End 049°14'N., 08°36'W. (I.C.0300/39) VIMY and WITHERINGTON ordered to attack. (C.in C. W.A. 2227/15). ESCAPADE to search area on way back to Plymouth (C.in C. W.A. 2253/15).

2029 — By D/F indications of enemy unit possibly in vicinity of convoy T.C. one (D.N.I.0017/16).

? — Norwegian steamer was stopped by German torpedo boats and a submarine 8 miles off Hoien (3 miles W. of Skaw) I.C.0302/39).

1132 — U-boat reported 50°40'N. 05°39' SCOTT ordered to carry out search of Mounts Bay and through above position en route destination. (C.in C. W.A. 1858/15).

0200 — N.O.I.C., Aberdeen reports that at 0200 15/12, KINALDIE, in position 4 miles W.S.W. of Maganaess, was followed by a submarine until in position 10 miles W.S.W. of Maganaess. Nothing transpired 1219. (C.in C. Rosyth 1337/22).

Submarines attacked.

0915 — By aircraft on patrol 17 miles E. of North Foreland. Also attacked subsequently by BASILISK with depth charges on contact off N.Foreland 51°7'N. 1°59'E. No definite result. (V.A.Dover 1600/15) (A.S.W.D.102).

0900-1100 — JERVIS and JANUS attacked a contact North of Cromer 53°20'N.1°5'E. No visible result. Five charges failed to explode (D.Seven,1631/15).

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

0600 — U-boat on surface seen by French warship off St.Nicholas, Cape Verde, steering 013° (C.in C., South Atlantic 1733/15).

WAR DIARY. 15.12.39
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked.

The three following were mined off the Tyne (c.f. sinkings 14/12).

H.C.FLOOD 0245 Norwegian (1907 tons) from Hull to Oslo. Crew 21, 4 (?3) missing including Captain. 55°2'N. 1°12'W.

RAGWI sunk. 0245 Norwegian (1264 tons), from Hull to Malmo, crew 19, 6 missing. 55°2'N. 1°12'W.

STRINDHEIM sunk. 1150 Norwegian tanker (321 tons). 2 survivors, 9 missing 52°2'N. 1°17!5'W. off Tyne.

GERMAINE sunk. 1600 Greek (5217 tons) sunk by gunfire 1600 from U-boat S.W. of Ireland. WANDERER pickedup all survivors, 23 in number, 51°0'N. 12°18'W. (C.in C. W.A. 1039/16, WANDERER 2138/15) Survivors transferred to Dutch liner PENNLAND.

RAMSAY chased. 1132 Chased by submarine 30 miles N. Pendeau (Base W/T ship, Scapa 1135/15 received from Lands End Radio) see also Lands End Radio TOR1215/15, Portishead Radio 1208/15 amended position to 30 N. Pendeau.

URSUS sunk. 0900 Swedish 1499 tons bound Rochester, awaiting pilot, sunk by mine 5 miles E.N.E. of Tongue Lightship. 9 (including Captain) missing, 11 survivors landed at Rotterdam by Dutch BRINDA, two injured.

FOINA sunk Norwegian 1674 tons sunk by mine off East Coast of Scotland, 2 killed, 16 missing.

One U-boat outward bound may pass N. of Scotland today and one homeward bound today or tomorrow (D.N.I.1116/15).

Submarines reported.

1040 By aircraft on sweep of western Heligoland Bight area, believed periscope in 54°35'N. 4°30'E. heading N.W. (H.Q. B.C.1400/15).

1137 51°20'N. 2°7'E. by Dutch merchant ship, course 230° (I.C.0300/39).

1315 2½ miles S.E. Buchan Ness. Surfaced alongside trawler RIVER LOSSIE and immediately resubmerged heading East. (C.in C. Rosyth 1624/15).

1025 51°57'N. 1°53'E. SNAPPER reported object resembling U-boat. (I.C.0300/39).

HOME COMMANDS.

Sinking of GERMAINE.

Report from Commander R. F. Morice, C.O., H.M.S. WANDERER, dated 18.12.1939, shows that at 1745/15 he increased speed to 20 knots on receiving distress message from Greek ship GERMAINE, and subsequently to 27 knots. 2106, first boat alongside, survivors from both boats on board, received report from Greek Captain that ship was sunk by S/M. Weather calm, light westerly winds and slight S.S.W. swell, visibility good, apart from occasional rain. Remarks on sinking attached:--
Position 51°00' N., 12°18'W., about 1800 on 15/12.
Captain, N. Costallos, owner agents, Michalinos, London, registered Piraeus, cargo of maize, bound Albany, U.S., for Cork.
Captain stated ship was stopped by a shot about 1630 from submarine one mile astern. Ordered on board by signal. S/M Captain returned his papers, told him he would sink the ship because he was between latitude 50° and 51°. German said he did not believe he was going to a neutral port. On Greek Captain protesting about abandoning ship 200 miles from land, German said he could make a W/T signal reporting a collision and gave him half an hour to abandon ship. German told him he had been following the ship for 5 hours, i.e., 40 miles. Ship sank in ten minutes after only one big explosion. Greek Captain stated gunfire, but torpedo considered more likely. German Captain spoke English, two other young officers on bridge. S/M similar to photo of U.33 in B.R. 145/39, two guns painted grey all over (light grey). Conning tower marked 4.X.3 on side, and 4 on front. Black cat painted on hull below conning tower.

Covering letter from C. in C., Western Approaches, states WANDERER, WALPOLE, WOLVERINE and ARDENT arrived on the scene about 4 hours afterwards but were unable to make contact with the U.boat.

WAR DIARY

15.12.39.
Friday.

ENEMY MERCHANT VESSELS.
HOME COMMANDS

Unknown German ship southgoing (V.C.Haugesund 1654/15).

CHRISTIAN RUSS — Returned Oslo. (Oslo 1427/15).

HAMM — Reported to have gone southward (Haugesund 1516/15).

Movements — Movements of German merchant ships. (Admiralty 1313/15 to C.in C. H.F., V.A.N.P.etc.)

NORTH ATLANTIC.

RIO DE JANEIRO — Left Vigo destination unknown (Cable intercept)

ARUCAS — Left Vigo 1100/15 (D.N.I.0108/16).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES

DUSSELDORF captured. — Captured 0545 Z + 4 15/12, 10 miles from coast of Chile in Lat.27°13'S. Scuttling attempted but effective action taken by boarding party. In ballast. Has only 7 days' fuel. (DESPATCH 0847/16) Taking her to Antofagasta for fuel (C.in C. A & W.I. 0202/16). Leaves p.m.16/12 for Panama unescorted (DESPATCH 1625/16).

TATTI — Reported (Motala 1130, 15/12) held by U.S. authorities as suspected she will either act as supply ship for German raiders or give the Germans information.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

ADOLF LEONHARDT. scuttled. — Intercepted by SHROPSHIRE. Abandoned and scuttled as soon as she sighted SHROPSHIRE's aircraft, SHROPSHIRE being then 60 miles away. Unable to save her. All preparations for scuttling had been made before leaving Lobito. (C.in C. S.A.1545/15) copies of five letter recoding for International code for use by German merchant ships was seized on board her. Believed Germans unaware code found (N.O. in Charge, Simonstown 0930/15).

Submarines at Camerones. — Negative report received after thorough investigation on seaplane of enemy submarines having been seen at Camerones (N.A.Buenos Aires 1905/15, 2005/15).

ALTMARK — Has some 300 British prisoners on board (N.A.Buenos Aires 0100/15).

War Diary.

15. 12. 1939,
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Delay in Arrival "C" class Cruisers.

Appreciate considerations set forth in your 0905Z/11 and 1345/8. Regret delay in arrival of "C" class cruisers, but hard pressed in North Sea to maintain contraband control until armed merchant cruisers ready. Suggest HOBART sail from Colombo for Australia as soon as KENT and SUFFREN arrive back at Colombo with the convoy, and HOBART remain in Australian waters until arrival of the two "C" class cruisers. (1st S.L., 0124/15 to First Naval Member, Commonwealth).

Your 0124/15. Delay in arrival of "C" class now accepted by Government; better not reopen question by passing on your generous offer to return HOBART. Pressing for our 8-in. cruisers to form escorts as far as vicinity of Cocos. (First Naval Member, Melbourne, 0331Z/16).

War Diary. FOREIGN STATIONS. 15.12.1939, Friday.

South Atlantic.

Disposition. SHROPSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, NEPTUNE, 3rd Division of destroyers and SEVERN to proceed to River Plate. (1st S.L., 1745/15).
ARK ROYAL to arrive Plate area as soon as possible and not wait for RENOWN. (1st S.L., 2034/15).

SEVERN (see 29/11, 6/12). Reconnoitre Trinidad Island, lat. 20°30' S., long. 29°20' W., for ALTMARK if it will not delay you more than 12 hours. (ALTMARK described). As 300 British merchant seamen on board, should be shadowed but not torpedoed. (1 S.L., 2033/15).

Australia and New Zealand.

Troop Convoy, Escorts. Arrangements for escort of Australian and New Zealand Expeditionary Force. (1st S.L., 0125/15). Concur, Navy Office, Melbourne, 0300Z/16, First Naval Member, New Zealand, 0901/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS (contd.)

South Atlantic (contd.)

Fuelling — Bahia unsuitable for Force K but Rio de Janeiro satisfactory (D.C.N.S.0110/15/12).

NEPTUNE to fuel at Santos (Cdre 0820/15/12) Re type of fuel to be taken and keeping W/T silence(C.in C. S.A. 1027/15, 1355/15/12) Position of OLYNTUS. She hasnot got oiling at sea gear (Cdre. S.A.D.1805/15/12).

GRAF SPEE — Uruguayan Government will grant up to 48 or 60 hours stay in harbour. No sign of ship moving (D.C.N.S.1417/15/12).

15.12.39.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

German commercial aircraft. Shipping control in Aegean. — At 0830 a German commercial aircraft was sighted flying over the Aegean Sea in approx.39°55'N., 23°10'E., on a North North Westerly course. Solution difficult. Question is under investigation (C.in C. Med.1910/15).

China

Sale of German ships. — No confirmation of reported possibility of sale of German ships in N.E.I.ports (C.I.S. Far East, Singapore 0935 2/15).

South Atlantic

ALCANTARA damaged ? — Reported from Rio de Janeiro ALCANTARA seriously damaged in Rio Grande do Sul by guns of GRAF SPEE during the naval engagement. (Rome Short Wave 1230/15).

Force K. — In view of possible enemy submarines in Plate area essential that destroyers should join you when possible but do not delay your arrival in Plate area on this account. Give destroyers their instructions before leaving Rio de Janeiro (C.in C. S.A.1035/15).

Positions. — British positions 1200/15 (D.C.2015/14)

Force H. — To remain at Cape ports for the present (C.in C. S.A.1040/15) Left 15/12 for Freetown (N.O.in Charge Simonstown 1220/15).

Submarines — No confirmation that submarines were seen at Camerones (N.A. Buenos Aires 2005/15).

North Atlantic

French positions. — 1200/15 (D.C.0259/15) (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1838/15)

Convoy positions. — D.C.2030/15.

HOME COMMANDS contd.

Norwegian patrols contd. Norwegian Admiral at Bergen has suggested the convoying of ships of all nationalities past certain danger areas by the Norwegian Navy. Naval authcrities in Norway have been told not to accept this arrangement without further instruction (D.C.N.S.)

WEATHER

0400	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	East, light to fresh	Moderate
Horns Reef	East, light	Good
Channel	East, light	Moderate
W.Approaches	N.E. to N., light	Good

Outlook - Little change.

Enemy Information.

Minesweepers. Aircraft on sweep western Heligoland Bight area sighted at 1048/15 4 minesweepers, one flying red ensign, 54°3'N. 4°3'E. heading E. (H.Q. B.C.1400/15).

MARIE CHRISTIANSAND Stopped by 2 German torpedo boats and one submarine near Skaw 8 miles off Hoien Light (Christiansands 1950/17).

WAR DIARY

15.12.39
Friday.

Unexplained explosions. H.M. Trawler ALLOUETTE stationed at outer end of Southern approach channel Tyne reported hearing 2 explosions to N.E. of her position at 0300 and 0320. Latter also heard and slight vibration felt by C.G's Newbiggin, Tynemouth and Sunderland at 0320. (C.in C. Rosyth 0440/15).

Suspected espionage. Two Belgian trawlers suspected of reporting sailing of WESSEX (N.O. in Charge, Milford Haven 1815/15)

Foreign merchant vessels. Asking that Lloyds be permitted to telegraph actual dateof movements of foreign merchant vessels (D.N.I.Melbourne 1851/15).

Censorship, Ireland. Requesting telegraph censorship may now be discontinued (C.in C.Rosyth 1515/15) (See 2/12).

Purchase of merchant ships. Press Bureau report that Britain trying to purchase fleet of merchant vessels in U.S.A. Ships about 7500 tons wanted.

Thames minefield. First lay of shallow minefield off Thames (G.F.7 line C) was completed.

Enemy Mining. Between 13/12 and 15/12 no less than 10 ships were mined off the Tyne. Between 0700/15 and 1100/15 7 moored mines were exploded by mine sweepers. Fog prevented any further sweeping. All channels considered unsafe and port closed.

Tyne closed.

Demagnetisation trials. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be made available for demagnetisation trials when ready for sea (R.A. M.L.0020/15).

Dutch shipping is especially hard hit.

1939	Ships arrive (port of Amsterdam)	Tonnage.
August.	319	2,000,000
September.	177	664,000
October.	166	912,000
November.	155	860,000

To December 8th the Dutch had lost 8 ships totalling nearly 40,000 tons. Six sunk by mines. Lost were:- MARK, 1514 tons, BINNENDJIK, 6,873 tons TEGRI, 280 tons, SAFE, 375 tons, SIMON BOLIVAR, 8,309 tons, SPAARNDAM, 8,850 tons, SLIEDRECHT, 5,133 tons, and TAJANDOEN, 8,159 tons. (Intercept letter - M.C.5 15/12)

Norwegian patrols. Norwegian air and surface patrols arebeing re-inforced on Narvik traffic route with the probable object of attacking all submarines observed submerged inside territorial waters (D.N.I.0117/15).

Norwegian/

WAR DIARY 15.12.39
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

C.in C. Home Fleet in WARSPITE with HOOD, BARHAM and 9 destroyers are 250 miles west of Malin Head (N.point of Ireland) at 0730.
DEVONSHIRE, BERWICK and GLASGOW 480 miles west by north of Malin Head.
SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH on patrol between Orkneys and Faroes.
DIOMEDE, DELHI, CERES, CARDIFF concentrated off Faroes.

If no further enemy report is received by 0900 C.in C. intends following dispositions:-
(1) Battle Fleet to cover Canadian Troop convoy.
(2) Cruisers to return to Northern Patrol, except SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH who are to proceed to Scapa to fuel in preparation for covering the next Norwegian Convoy.

Special destroyer and submarine patrols cancelled.

The special destroyer and submarine patrols in North Sea have been cancelled; ships are returning to their bases.
H.B.7 Positions to be occupied at dawn 16, ACDGKN (S.O.Humber 1555/15). Submarines positions 0700/15 (D.C.2017/14) also F (F.O. Humber 1550/16).

Northern patrol.

Ships of Northern Patrol are returning to their stations p.m./15, C.in C. Home Fleet will cover T.C.one. (D.C.0829/15).

Air Patrols.

(1) Parallel track searches from British coast between Dundee and Cromer to Norwegian coast and Danish coast.
(2) Patrol over southern part of North Sea to Terschelling.
(3) Patrol from Shetlands to Norwegian coast.
(4) Patrol from Cape Wrath to Faroe Is.
(5) Usual anti-submarine patrols and convoy escorts.

Test Sub.H.34

F.O.C.O.S.1306/15. C.in C.Rosyth 0031/17.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1010 an unidentified aircraft was reported near Frazerburg. At 2200 unidentified aircraft were heard over Holbourne Head and at 2240 they were located near Hoy.

Convoys

O.N.5 will leave Methil 1600/16. H.N.5 leave point E 1400/19 (C.in C.Rosyth 1[illegible])

Operation I.B. (Minelaying and anti-s/m.)

To be carried out on night 17/18 December. (D.O.D.(H)1225/15)

Rosyth Defences. Establishment of look-out post on north shore and trials with R.D.F. station between Crail and Caiplie (C.in C. Rosyth 1640/15).

Scapa defences. Remarks by C.in C. Home Fleet (C.in C.H.F.1547/15).

War Diary

16. 12. 39.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

AMBLE mined — 0400 (1162 tons) of Newcastle, mined 54° 52' N. 0° 51½' W. (N.O.i/c Blyth 1306/16). Correction: Derelict, bow blown off in position 54° 55.6' N. 01° 03' W. (WALLACE 1646/16). Tyne was closed to traffic (D.C. 1958/16). C. in C. Rosyth states ship mined in 54° 52' N. 0° 51.5' W. at 0400 (1429/16). No doubt the same. AMBLE beached between Whitburn and Sunderland. 17 survivors brought into Blyth. (D.S.) Towed into port 25/12.

GLITREFJELL sunk — 1230 1568 tons, Norwegian, mined on her way from Immingham to Stockholm. Master, 2nd mate and 3 of crew killed or drowned. 13 survivors picked up by ICARUS. (D.S.) I.C. 0302/39 says 1200. Sunk by mine 56° 30' N. 0° 30' E. (? 56° 18' N. 0° 20' E. approx.)

LISTER sunk — 0030 Swedish 1366 tons torpedoed 55° 13' N. 1° 35' E. (position doubtful, N.E. of Dogger Bank) (I.C. 0305/39). D.C.N.S. gives time 12.30 a.m./16. 6 survivors picked up from raft arrived Rosyth 2300/21 in H.M.S. ECLIPSE. 13 other survivors in large lifeboat made for Danish coast a.m. Sunday 17/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0045/21).

S/m's. reported — A U-boat may reach Western Approaches from the North 18/12 or 19/12, one may have left homeward bound north about 13/12 (D.N.I. 1258/16).

0900 French a/c sighted s/m 47° 50' N. 6°50' W.

1039 WOLVERINE and ARDENT still hunting assailant of GERMAINE (sunk 15/12) (C. in C.W.A. 1039/16).

South Atlantic

Admiralty have no confirmation of presence of U-boats in South Atlantic (D.N.I. 1144/16)

North Atlantic

Reports of enemy s/m's. off Cadiz and Huelva, and action taken (F.O.C.N.A. 1330/16).

S/m's attacked — Object on bottom 57° 26' N. 1° 45' W. with large patch of oil. D/C's dropped with no further result. (ESCORT 1653/16).

0958 By a/c, s/m submerged, periscope seen 57° 27' N. 1° 46' W. Bombs dropped. No apparent effect. Report considered reliable. (C. in C. Rosyth 1140/16). But C. in C. Rosyth 1128/16 says time 0948.

1563 ESCORT dropped d/c's. 57° 26' N. 1° 45' W. (off Buchan Ness). While searching for U-boat attacked by a/c 0958. Large oil patch but no further result.

North Atlantic.

0930 By SIROCO and RAILLEUSE escorting convoy 245° Spartel 25 mls. S/m assumed destroyed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2222/16).

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPPING

Home Commands

The following German Merchant ships are known to be at sea and are probably making for Germany:-

	Earliest date on which it is anticipated ships will be in Icelandic waters.
PIONEER	19 to 20. 12.
RIO DE JANEIRO	20 to 21. 12.
JOAO PESSOA	20 to 21. 12.
ARUCAS	20 to 21. 12.
COLUMBUS	23 to 24. 12.
ARAUCA	25 to 26. 12.
BAHJA BLANCA	26 to 27. 12.
NORDMEER	26 to 27. 12. (D.N.I. 1620/16).

NEREUS — Has arrived (Oslo 1523/16)

GERTRUD, CASABLANCA, TENERIFE, HELUAN — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1254/16)

China

SCHARNHORST — Kobe 14/12. 78 members of crew left for Germany via Siberia. 1800 empty iron drums ordered. (TERROR, Singapore 0531 Z/16).

North Atlantic

ARUCAS, JOAO PESSOA — Reported sailed from Vigo 1100/15. Please confirm (D.N.I. 1036/16 to Consul, Vigo). Incorrect. Both ships and 19 others are still here (Consul, Vigo 1539/16).

America & W. Indies.

CONSUL HORN — Aruba reports her likely to sail 0059/18/12 after shortening masts and funnels. Several crew speak Russian. May be disguised as Russian. B.2. Rumour she may be escorted by U-boat D.4 (S.O.(I) Kingston 2104/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Convoy. French ships LORRAINE, MARSEILLAISE, JEAN DE VIENNE, with a convoy of four ships, left Halifax for Casablanca at 1600/14. Speed and route. (Admiralty, 1201/16).

3rd Canadian Contingent. Will be ready to sail for U. K. at end of January. Close escort of one capital ship required for the Halifax escort force. (D.O.D. (F), 1200/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Yangtze	Japanese attitude towards treaty right of U.K. to maintain gunboats on Yangtse (R.A.(Y) 0240Z/16)
Oilers	Proposed increased wages for highly skilled Chinese crews (Royal Fleet Auxiliaries) of oilers. (Commodore, Hong Kong 0553Z/16) Proposal supported (C. in C. China 0115Z/19).
5th C.S. and 4th C.S.	F.O.C. 5th C.S. and cruisers lent to E.I. Station are unlikely to return to China until strategic situation changes. Suggest F.O.C.5.C.S. be known as F.O.C.4.C.S., the 4th C.S. to constitute all cruisers under C. in C.E.I. and 5th C.S. all cruisers under C. in C. China. BIRMINGHAM is war flagship of China Fleet (C. in C. China 0422Z/16) C. in C. E. I. 0542 Z/17 "Concur".
West River	Closing of West and Pearl Rivers owing to military operations (Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai) 1382/16).
Reporting British Sailings	Requesting early reply to Adty. 1817/30/11 and S.O.(I) Shanghai 0649Z/2 (C. in C. China 0242Z/16)

FOREIGN STATIONS (contd.)

NEPTUNE — To proceed to Rio de Janeiro to fuel as previously ordered (C.in C. S.A.0925/16/12).

ARK ROYAL, RENOWN — Not yet arrived at Rio (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1600/16/12) essential I should know tonight time of arrival of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, NEPTUNE in order to arrange fuelling (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1700/16/12).
ARK ROYAL and RENOWN may have proceeded direct to River Plate (C.in C. S.A.2300/16/12).

War Diary

16. 12. 39.
Saturday

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

North Atlantic

French positions 1200/6. 2 patrol vessels off Vigo (D.C. 0212/16)

Convoys Cdr. of Watch 1841/16.

Mediterranean

C.C.Aegean Proposals re. contraband control in Aegean (C. in C. Med. 1207/16) :-
(a) To organise an adequate system of guarantee
(b) To establish suitable base in Aegean mutually agreed on by the powers concerned where voluntary contraband control can be carried out.

Cruisers. CALEDON and CALYPSO to proceed Devonport for stores and to sail for Mediterranean. Leave V.A.N.P's administration and join Mediterranean Fleet on sailing from Tyne. (Adty. 1156/16).

South Atlantic

Destroyers HARDY, HERO and HOSTILE sailed from Pernambuco 0001 & 3, 16/12 Southbound 15 knots. Arrive at River Plate 0600 zone + 3 22/12 (Capt. (D)2, 0003/16).

R. A. HARWOOD Made K.C.B. and promoted Rear Admiral.

EXETER Arrival Port Stanley 1430 GMT/16. (EXETER 1145/16) Tactics of EXETER (see 22/12).

GRAF SPEE Sinkings. List of ships sunk by GRAF SPEE:

NEWTON BEECH	5.10.39.	0600	009°35'S.,	006°30'W.	Capt.J.Robison
ASHLEA	7.10.39.	0830	009° S.	003° W.	" C.Pottinger
HUNTSMAN	10.10.39.	1800	008° S.	008° W.	" A.H.Brown.
TREVANION	22.10.39.	1430	019°40'S.	004°02'E.	" J.N.Edwards
AFRICA SHELL	15.11.39.	1200	10½ miles S.W. by S.		Zavora lighthouse Capt.P.G. Dove.
DORIC STAR	2.12.39.	1300	019° S.	005° E.	" W.Stubbs.
TAIROA	3.12.39.	0445	021°30' S.	003 W.	
STREON SHALM	7.12.39.	1630	025° S.,	027°50' W.	

(N.A.Buenos Aires (at Montevideo) 0157/16 1957/22).

(Note: CLEMENT is missing from above list, sunk 1200, 30.9.39).

Reported that the GRAF SPEE left Germany for foreign waters on 21st August (I.C. 0311/39).

War Diary

16. 12. 39.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS (Ctd.)

Convoys. Neutral to join

Estonian SS. MERISAAR or TURESSAR may join convoy at Bergen (D.N.I. 1222/16).
FS 55 is cancelled (C. in C. Rosyth 1242/16)
Special destroyer escort will arrive off Narvik in about 48 hours' time to escort all British and neutral ships now there direct to U.K.; as many ships as possible are to be sailed (D.T.D. 1048/16).

British s/m's. positions

0700/16 (D.C.2038/15).

Nore command movements

For period ending 0700/17 (C. in C. Nore 0655/16)

Western Approaches Command.

Disposition of forces 1800/16 (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1801/16)

Cruiser Escorts

General policy. Escort for cruisers and A.M.C.'s on passage is not essential but passage through dangerous area should be at night as far as possible. (D.C.N.S. 1534/16).

Port A. and Invergordon Defence.

Both Port A. and Invergordon require permanent A.A. defences. Undesirable to afford protection to Invergordon at expense of frequently exercised Rosyth defences. (C. in C. Rosyth 1431/16).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea - North	South, moderate	Good
South	East, light	Moderate
Horns Reef	South-East, light	Good
Channel	East, light	Moderate
W. Approaches	South-east, moderate	Good

Outlook ... Similar

Enemy Intelligence

ARIJA

Released by German Control, is on her way to Argentine via the Channel (Riga to Latvian Legation, London IC.25/9).
Master of Danish SS. EFFEI in Kiel about 10 days ago states one pocket battleship then among other warships. About 25 to 30 s/ms. in harbour, some believed to be Russian. Believed reliable (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1140/16)

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

S/m in G. of Bothnia

Swedish Naval Authorities are satisfied that Russian s/m operating in Gulf of Bothnia has now left supposedly through minefield in wake of German ship (Stockholm 1607/16).

War Diary. 16.12.1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet, Return of German Ships. Possibility that Germans have purposely selected the Christmas period for what appears to be a considerable break back, and that they may cover return of their ships with surface forces. Policy of retaining heavy ships in harbour owing to danger from magnetic mines can be relaxed if Clyde is used as a base, and Northern Patrol by A.M.C.'s re-established. REPULSE can be retained temporarily. (1st S.L., 2051/16).

Canadian Convoy Escort. On arrival of T.C.1, request arrange following movements:-

REPULSE to Devonport.
FURIOUS to fly off aircraft and remain Clyde.
RESOLUTION to sail from Clyde so as to arrive Halifax not later than 30/12.
((D.O.D.(H), 1216/16).

War Diary

16. 12. 1939.
Saturday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Home Fleet

C. in C. H.F. in WARSPITE with HOOD, BARHAM and 9 destroyers is covering the Canadian Troop Convoy which at 0730 was 300 miles West of Malin Head (North point of Ireland). Owing to fog the 12 destroyers which left the Clyde 12/12 to meet the convoy failed to rendezvous 15/12 but are expected to make contact at 1000/16.

Troop Convoy

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA was separated from the convoy in fog 15/12 but should rejoin at 1000/16. NEWCASTLE has relieved EMERALD who is returning to Halifax.

Northern Patrol

Between Shetlands and Faroes ... 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland ... 3 "

Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal patrols special A/S patrols to cover the northern approaches to Clyde and meet the Canadian Troop convoy.

Special duties a/c's.

Three Wellington a/c's. to be handed over to Coastal Command for special duties. Naval observers will be supplied. (Hd. of A.1713/16) (For mine spotting ?)

Enemy Aircraft

An unidentified aircraft was reported off Gregness (near Aberdeen) at 2015 on a North-Easterly course and a further a/c was reported to be flying low near Buckie on a south-westerly course at 2045.

Enemy mining

Possibility that minelaying on East coast taking place from merchant ships in or out of convoy, coasters and trawlers, either through their bottoms or from on deck. Any vessel acting suspiciously to be brought in for inspection by armed guard. (Hd. of M. 2052/16).

Numerous reports of floating mines between North Foreland and 51° 52' N. 3° 21' E. particularly 8 - 9 miles from North Foreland. Several also reported near Dungeness.
Three horned mines have been reported at one mile intervals 200° from 51° 44' N. 1° 46½' E.
Ship purporting to be Danish SS. JAEGERSBORG was sighted by a/c apparently laying mines in 57° 50' N. 3° 54' W. at 1005. Six large round red and black objects with horns - viewed from about 6 ft. Danger area declared (Q.Z. 241) (H.Q.C.C. 1537/16) See also 19/12, 20/12. This area is exactly in the standard route given by Norwegian Govt. to Norwegian ships (I.C.0302/39) A/c was reported on the water 0100/16, 154° 6½ miles Flamborough Head. Depths of water in which ships of various tonnage should be immune from magnetic mines (D.C.N.S. 1350/16). Danger area off Tyne promulgated (Hdrog. 1748/16).

Casualties

NELSON due to leave Port A. 22/12.

War Diary

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Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

S/m's reported

0512 D.F. on 4412 kcs., unknown enemy unit 54° 30' N. 01° 30' E., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 0539/17)

0803 D.F. on 3846 kcs, unknown enemy unit 54° 50' N. 03° 15' E., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 0829/17).

1629 D.F. Unknown enemy unit 54° 28' N. 50° 0' E. reliable fix (D.N.I. 1657/17).

1704 D.F. Unknown enemy unit 55° 12' N. 5° 20' E. unreliable fix (D.N.I. 1745/17).

0935 Sighted 56° 59' N. 2° 9' W. (off Stonehaven).

German merchant ships

Reports have been received which indicate that U-boats may be used to protect homeward bound German merchant vessels. (D.N.I. 1711/17).

s/m's attacked.

War Diary

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Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands

ALTONA — Left southward 1450 in cargo after unexplainable delay of 48 hours (V.C. Haugesund 1512/17).

America & West Indies

DUSSELDORF Prize — Entered Antofagasta for fuel escorted by DESPATCH (B.B.C. intercept Montevideo 0200/17).

Mediterranean

DELUS, YALOVA — Sailed from Braila, destinations unknown, but probably Turkey (C.G. Galati 1910/16).

South Atlantic.

TACOMA — Has left harbour (N.A.Buenos Aires at Montevideo 1845/17) See also Signals re. GRAF SPEE.

LAHN — Has not sailed (N.A. Buenos Aires 2055/17).

East Indies

MAPIA — Re. position 3/12 (D.C.N.S. 1659/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH, ABBEYDALE. Admiralty 1437/17. Oiler ABBEYDALE, orders to be available for fuelling H.M.S. DESPATCH and other forces as necessary. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1530/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

(South Atlantic Ctd.)

Disposition AJAX and ACHILLES off Montevideo. CUMBERLAND off River Plate approx. position 36° S., 55° W. NEPTUNE arrives Rio for fuel 1600 Sunday 17/12 and sails for River Plate on completion. Capt. (D) 2, D.F. in HARDY, with HERO and HOSTILE fuelled Pernambuco 16/12 and arrives River Plate 0600 Friday 20/12. DORSETSHIRE sailed Simonstown 0800 13/12 and arrives River Plate 20 or 21/12. SHROPSHIRE sailed from Cape at 20 kts., arrive River Plate 23/12. SEVERN from Freetown, Trinidad Island and arrives River Plate 20 or 21/12. No confirmation of presence of U-boat in South Atlantic. (C. in C., S.A. 1130/17).

North Atlantic

French positions 1200/17 (D.C.0515/17).

America & West Indies

Suspicious tanker Painted Italian flag, reported by Master of CANADIAN STAR 1307/15. 23° 39' N. 49° 10' W. (Harbourmaster, Barbados 2300/17).

Mediterranean

Mines. Information, considered probable, that German mines are being send down Danube in wooden packing cases for delivery to German ships at Braila or Galatz.

Merchant ships' bunkering. Considered better to bunker at Port Said if stocks can be maintained, thus avoiding congestion at Gibraltar and to eliminate necessity of calling at Gibraltar should convoys be introduced in Mediterranean (C. in C. Med. 1143/17).

C.C. Greek Pending further instructions, unless there are positive grounds for suspicion Greek ships whilst in Aegean area, except those making through passage without calling at an Aegean port, are not to be diverted to a C.C. base (C. in C. Med. 1149/17).

C.C. Italian Arrangements between British and Italian Governments re Lloyd Triestino (C.C.S.O. Aden 12452/17).

Effectiveness of embargo Lloyd Triestino reported to be refusing to accept German goods after 31/12, in view of British measures. Other Italian shipping agencies are demanding British Consular certificates in respect of contracts for German goods completed before 27/11 and indicate that after 31/12 shipments of German goods will not be possible (Post & Tel. 107).

War Diary.

17.12.1939,
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Disposition, False Message. Spreading of false report re disposition of RENOWN+ and ARK ROYAL, in order to deceive ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE. (D.C.N.S., 1440/17). This was an order for fuel at Bahia Blanca. It was cancelled (2342/17, D.N.I.)

DORSETSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE. Ordered to steer in direction of Falklands so as to be better placed in case ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE attempted escape to southward. (1st S.L., 1335/17).

DESPATCH. Ordered to proceed towards Magellan Strait, keeping as complete with fuel as possible, fuelling if necessary at a Chilean port. (1st S.L., 1437/17).

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Sunday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

South Atlantic.

Force K. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL arrived 0610 (Press Bureau).

GRAF SPEE. At 1400 GRAF SPEE commenced transferring boatloads of men with their personal effects to German SS. TACOMA (8100 tons) lying a few cables from her in Montevideo harbour. Attempts were made at first to screen these movements, but were not continued. By 1700 over 700 men had been transferred. At 1815 SPEE and TACOMA left harbour. SPEE stopped 6 miles from the harbour and TACOMA 2 miles from her. Several boats passed between them. At 1955 two violent explosions took place in GRAF SPEE. At 2055 GRAF SPEE was a blazing wreck and there were frequent explosions. The following signals deal with the destruction, International law questions etc. (N.A. Buenos Aires 2055/17 gives brief account of final 24 hours of GRAF SPEE. Hd. of M. 1929/15, D.N.I. 2007/15. Hd. of M. 0047/16, 0329/16, C. in C. S.A., 1010/16, 2300/16, 1130/17, 1705/17, 0015/18, N.A. Buenos Aires, 1935/15, 1010/16, 1923/17, 1720/17, 1515/17, 0295/18, 1010/19, N.A. Buenos Aires at Monte Video 1635/16, 1845/16, 2004/16, S.O.(I) Monte Video 2052/20, 2100/15, 1805/16, 2300/16, 0100/17, N.A. Montevideo 2340/17, Cmdre. S.A.D. 1133/14, 0710/16, EXETER 1137/16, A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1600/16, S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0024/16, R.A. Aircraft Carrier 0530/17, Captain D.(2) 0003/16, Mr. Millington Drake, (Montevideo 162/16, 165/17, 159/16), D.S.O. 1148/16, C. in C. Africa 2345/15.
Following movements were ordered by Adty. consequent on destruction of GRAF SPEE.

Sweep for ALTMARK

Force K., NEPTUNE, 3rd Division of destroyers and SEVERN to sweep for German tanker ALTMARK, before returning to Freetown.
SHROPSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE to proceed to Falkland Is. at economical speed.
CUMBERLAND to proceed to Simonstown, searching for ALTMARK on the way.
Apparent proof that two pocket battleships were operating in Southern Ocean 15/12 and 16/12 (C. in C. E.I. 0701 Z/17).

5 British Captains and 55 Seamen were released from GRAF SPEE.

It was subsequently reported that the GRAF SPEE left Germany for foreign waters on 21/8. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1810/26).

Damage to AJAX Extent of damage to AJAX in the action (Cdre., S.A. Div., 1133/14, received 1455/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Canadian Convoy Arrival.	T.C.1 arriving in three groups at five-mile intervals, group 1 due 1100. Each group escorted by FURIOUS, REPULSE AND RESOLUTION respectively and each screened by four destroyers. (FURIOUS, 0153/17).

HOME COMMANDS

First Canadian Troop Convoy T.C.1. M.032/40. Convoy T.C.1. Report of Proceedings from H.M.S. FURIOUS 4/1243 20.12.39.

Covering Force consisting of FURIOUS, REPULSE, EMERALD with HUNTER, and HYPERION as anti-s/m escort left Halifax 0510/10/12 and proceeded to Eastward to sweep ahead of route of convoy, intending to make contact 0800/12 in 45° 30'N 49° 0'W.

No a/c's could be operated from FURIOUS on 10/12 as cold weather had frozen up the W/T mast hydraulic system, although precaution had been taken to drain the system as far as possible.

The convoy was not sighted by the covering Force until the 5th day after sailing and Captain M. L. Clarke D.S.C. H.M.S. FURIOUS, commanding all forces engaged in the operations recommended that the Covering Force should in future be sailed with the convoy, in view of the low visibility so frequently experienced off the Newfoundland Banks, and that this force should be regarded as an escort for close protection rather than as a covering force.

On 15/12 S.S. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA became separated from the convoy in thick weather.

About 0430/17 FURIOUS and AQUITANIA were in collision with a darkened ship steaming on opposite course, understood to be S.S. JAMARIA

Convoy consisted of 5 ships AQUITANIA (24 knots) EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (24 knots), DUCHESS OF BEDFORD (18 knots) MONARCH OF BERMUDA (19 knots) EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA (18 knots)

Close Escort RESOLUTION

Outward local escort H.M.C.S. OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, FRASER, ST. LAURENT, H.M.S. HYPERION, HUNTER (two latter after detachment from covering Force after dark 10/12.

Inward local escort 12 destroyers to be detailed by C-in-C H.F.

Covering Force As stated above EMERALD to be relieved on 14/12 at R/V No.1. by a 6 inch cruiser to be detailed by C-in-C H.F.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Enemy Minefield — Position of enemy unit passed to SALMON (Duty Signal Officer 1855/17). Believed controlled minefield is laid between Heligoland and Sylt (Capt.(S)3, 2157/17).

MARIE CHRISTIANSAND (Christiansand 1950/17) see 15/12.

N.O.I.C. Leith reports Danish INGA sighted large German ship (described as Cruiser) mine laying 30 miles E. of present German minefield off Sylt during night of 17/12. Reliability value B.2. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1306/22). Position of INGAR 57° 15' N. 5° 48' E. (reliable). Suspected vessel steering ELY course and zig-zagging about 2 points at slow speed, burning dimmed masthead lights. No side lights; and showing a light described as searchlight in her own wake which was occasionally thrown ahead in line of her own course. No actual mines seen but vessel was like a passenger ship and similar in appearance to one he had seen laying mines in Baltic 0110 17/12. Searchlight put on to INGA who turned to north and steered so for one hour before resuming passage W. by S. without intervention. (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/24).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Name	Class	Bombed	Machine Gunned	Result	Remarks
VALENTINO CODA	S.S.	Yes	-	No hits.	(Italian 14486 tons)
AGNITA	S.S.	"	Yes	Damaged by concussion.	(3561 tons) (C. in C. Portsmouth 0945/18).
STRAIT FISHER	S.S.	Yes	Yes	No damage	(573 tons) (C. in C. Portsmouth 1518/18).
LOCH OSKAIG	A/S Trawler	Yes	-	-	
SERENITY	Coaster	Yes	?	Sunk	(244 tons)
MARVI	S.S.	-	Yes	-	Estonian (1429 tons) (C. in C. Rosyth 2055/18).
PEARL	Trawler	Yes	Yes	Sunk	3 wounded by machine gun fire (C. in C. Nore 1303/18).
COMPAGNUS	"	Yes	Yes	Abandoned	1 killed. Crew landed Aberdeen.
EVELINE NUTTEN	"	Yes	Yes	No damage	2 bombs (C. in C. Rosyth 1727/19).
ZELOS	"	Yes	Yes	Sunk	No casualties. 12 bombs (-do-)
IRANIAN	"				No damage
RIVER EARN	"	Yes. time 1650	?	-	(Sunk by 2 enemy a/c in later attack see 19/12).
ADAM	"	Yes	Yes	No damage or casualties. Attacked on way to fishing grounds (? in north) (Press).	

Mine dropping

1500 Two enemy a/c's. were sighted flying low off Margate.
1550 An enemy a/c was sighted dropping 2 mines off Whitby.

Security air patrols

Our security air patrols operated over Sylt and Borkum during the night.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Enemy units were located in the North Sea in the following positions:-

0512	54°30'N.	1°30'E.
0803	54°50'N.	3°12'E.
1629	54°30'N.	5°0'E.
1704	55°10'N.	5°20'E.

2 enemy torpedo boats and a submarine were reported in the Skagerrak on 15/12 examining neutral shipping for evidence of trade with Britain.

5 Danish vessels were seized off coast of Jutland and taken to a German port by enemy patrol vessels on 16/12. (N.A. Copenhagen 1030/17). Three in ballast for U.K. one with coal from U.K., one with cement for U.S.A. (N.A. Copenhagen 1730/19).

Swept Channel

Probable swept channel Heligoland to V.Y.I. Lightship. Heligoland, Norderney Lights out (URSULA 1210/17).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Casualties

JUNO see Convoys above.
SERENITY (244 tons) sunk 9 miles off Whitby by 2 enemy a/c's.
Darkened ship SAMARIA collided FURIOUS starboard side and AQUITANIA port quarter at 0431 in 55° 30' N. 06° 54' W. Damage to FURIOUS and AQUITANIA apparently superficial. (FURIOUS 1024/17). Presume route instructions given to SAMARIA will be investigated and steps taken to ensure that the special secrecy maintained in regard to these troop convoys does not lead to risk of similar occurrence with T.C.2. (C. in C. H.F. 2009/17).
PEARL see enemy raid on shipping.
COMPAGNUS - do -
TUSCAN STAR - do -
CRAIGIELEA - do -
ISABELLA GREIG - do -

Enemy air raid on shipping.

Intense air activity took place on East coast accompanied by bombing and machine gun attacks on merchant ships and trawlers.
The following attacks took place:-

Name	Class	Bombed	Machine Gunned	Result	Remarks
ISABELLA GREIG	Trawler	Yes	Yes	Sunk	At first incorrectly reported as NEW CHOICE, due to Captain giving wrong name (Cullercoats Radio 1000/17, C. in C. Rosyth 1924/18). 18 bombs. 2 slightly wounded.
DROMIO	"	?	?	-	Sunk in collision 21/12.
DERVISH	"	Yes	-	No hits	
ARNOLD BENNETT	"	-	?	-	
BEN CLAIR	"	Yes	-	No hits	
SHELDON	"	Yes	-	No Hits	6 bombs (Wick Radio 2300/17)
CRAIGIELEA	"	Yes	Yes	2 wounded by machine gun fire. One bomb hit but did not explode.	
FORT ROSE	"	Yes	Yes	-	(C. in C. Rosyth 1515/15). No casualties.
ORPHEUS	"	-	?	-	
COLLEAGUE	"	Yes	Yes	Undamaged	rescued crew of COMPAGNUS
St. AGNES	"	Yes	Yes	-	No casualties (M.V. or S/T).
OCEAN VIEW	"	Yes	-	No damage	8 bombs. (C. in C. Rosyth 1024/18)
EILEEN WRAY	"	Yes	Yes	Towed in (Press) No casualties. (IC.0303/39) sank in Hartlepool harbour	in 2 fathoms
TUSCAN STAR	S.S.	Yes	?	-	(11500 tons) 1 kd. Ship fired three rounds at a/c which then made off.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. C.in C. Home Fleet in WARSPITE with HOOD, BARHAM and 7 destroyers arrived at the Clyde 0917.

Convoys. First Canadian Troop Convoy of 5 ships arrived in Clyde 1219, escorted by FURIOUS, REPULSE, RESOLUTION and 12 destroyers.
SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH leave Scapa 0800/18 to cover Norwegian Convoy ON5.
Three 'J' Class destroyers left Sullum Voe 1500 to escort the Narvik Convoy. JUNO was delayed at Sullum Voe with engine defect, but sailed to join the convoy.
FURIOUS collision, see Casualties.
Position of ocean convoys 2000 (A.C.W.A. 1338/17).

Northern Patrol. Between Scotland and Faroes - 3 cruisers.
Between Faroes and Iceland - 3 cruisers.

Four A.M.Cs. have left the Clyde on passage to Northern Patrol.
BERWICK is proceeding to Denmark Strait.
Admiralty have ordered one 8 inch cruiser to proceed to patrol in Denmark Strait.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1515/17).

1st Cruiser Squadron. Fuelling and movements (F.O.C.N.P. 1515/17, F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1906/17).

Minelaying. and anti-submarine operations. Four destroyers from Harwich and two minelaying destroyers, IVANHOE and INTREPID, carried out an anti-submarine sweep from Thames entrance to Yarmouth, between 1245 and 1515/17. The two minelaying destroyers then proceeded to lay mines at about 0200/18 off Borkum, supported by the four Harwich destroyers. The Harwich destroyers carried out a further submarine sweep, returning to Harwich at dusk 18/12. Hudson battle flight covered the operation.

Tyne minefield. North and South channels swept clear to width of one mile and southern approach channel to Tyne is clear. MOHAWK attempted to leave, but returned as sweepers swept up 4 mines in channel and a magnetic mine exploded ahead of her.

Unexplained explosions. At 0500 Coastguards reported brilliant flush of reddish light 15 to 20 miles S.E. of Seahouses, probably mine explosion (C.in C. Rosyth, 0740/17).
Unexplained explosions 1550 due E. of Aldbrough (Yorkshire), 1216 two miles from Mundesley (near Cromer), and two at 1100 1½ to 2½ miles E.N.E. of Tongue Lt. V.

Fortress Commander, Orkneys. Not considered desirable to appoint Fortress Commander in full sense of the term for Orkneys and Shetlands. A.C.O.S. responsible for local operational control. Matters covered by this term. (D.C.N.S. 1442/17).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked.

BOGO 0418 Danish (1214 tons) Gothenberg to Methill reported sunk by mine 75 miles E. of May I. (Time doubtful) (I.C.0302/39) (Wick Radio 0420/18) 3 survivors of crew of 20 (? 17) landed at Kopervik by Norwegian ROGALAND after being picked up by RIVER EARN Tr. (C. in C. Rosyth 1851/22)

S/M's reported.

0510 D.F. unknown enemy unit, 54° 00' N., 6° 30' E. reliable fix (D.C.0518/18)

1833 D.F. unknown enemy unit bearing approx 0° from Scarborough and North of 57° N. (D.N.I. 1903/18)

1743 By D/F position of unknown enemy unit 55° 30' N. 3° 30' E. Reliable fix (D.N.I. 1812/18)

1945 One s/m bearing 279° 1 mile (? my) position 0° North Rona 20 miles. (NORTHERN DUKE 1945/18)

1135 s/m on surface approx. 1 mile off Abermfelin Trewin observed from shore C.2 (C. in C. W.A. 1830/18)

1356 Observer at Penmaen Oxwich sighted s/m 3 to 4 miles off coast proceeding down channel D.S (C.in C. W.A. 1824/18.

0955 Hartlepool examination vessel reports S/M periscope bearing E.S.E. 1 mile from Heugh steering N.E. (C.in C. Rosyth 1016/18)

0640 S/M surfaced close to drifter YORKSHIRE LASS and promptly resubmerged 53°28'N.,2°24'E. (Immingham 1325/21).

S/M's attacked.

2000 By trawler NORTHERN DUKE, 55 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath. No definite result. U-Boat submerged as NORTHERN DUKE ran in, and a depth charge attack was delivered. (A.S.W.D. 106).

South Atlantic.

1900 NEPTUNE carried out attack on a presumed U-Boat 150 miles E. of Rio de Janeiro. Result unknown. (A.S.W.D. 106.)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

NORDWEST — Arrived with general cargo (N.C.S.O. Gothenberg 1301/18).

CAP NORTE — German prize, arrived Leith roads 0530. (N.O. i/c Leith 1230/18).

BREMEN — Very large liner probably BREMEN, seen at Bremerhaven (H.Q. Bomber Command 1740/18).

URANUS, NEREUS, CHRISTIANRUSS — Have sailed (Oslo 1601/18)

LEDA — Has arrived (do)

TREUENFELS, HARPENDAL — Arrived 18/12, both light (Narvik 1243/19).

KIEL, KELLERWALD — As reported, there are now 6 German ships in harbour, of which KIEL and KELLERWALD are loaded. (Narvik 1243/19)

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG — Expected to sail from Para shortly with cargo of rubber but only 6 days' fuel (S.O.(I) Freetown 2249/18).

America and West Indies

Unknown liner — French SS. SHEHERAZADE reports unknown liner possibly German at 2000/17 30° 25' N. 79° 31' W. course 40°. Reliability of information not known. (D.C.0645/18).

? ALTMARK — Ship similar to ALTMARK reported by tanker LA CARRIERE 13° 24' N. 66° 31' W. 16/12 course West B 2. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1450/18).

COLUMBUS — Was off Beaufort N. Caroline 0600 local time 18/12 (D.N.I. 1952/18). Left Vera Cruz 14/12 (C. in C.A.W.I. 1509/18)

ARAUCA — Left Vera Cruz 14/12 (do)

NORDMEER — Left Curacoa 9/12 (do)

DRESDEN — Appears from interceptedmail that a U-boat provisioned her at Valparaiso during October. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1506/18).

North Atlantic

ARAUCAS — Is alongside loading (Consul, Vigo 2040/18)

THALIA — Sailing now 1045 (Huelva 1045/18).

East Indies

Two German ships at Massawa making preparations to leave soon, four others likely to leave later. C.3 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1148/18).

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Mediterranean.

Small craft. — Admiralty wants to buy trawlers, motor coasters, tugs in Greece. (D.N.I. 1617/18)

REX & CONTE DI SAVOIA — Arrangements for dealing with them (D.E.W.D. 1910/18).

America and West Indies.

? SCHEER or DEUTSCHLAND — Reported that DEUTSCHLAND or SCHEER is near 22° 23' N. 40° W. and will remain until 24/12. Reliability being assessed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2331/18)

COLUMBUS — Navy Department states she was off Beaufort North Carolina at 0600 local time 18/12. A. one (Washington D.C. 1044/18)

HYPERION — HYPERION to r.v. with VALIANT 1600/21 in 70° Mount Hill Light 240 miles and act as anti s/m escort. (C. in C. A.W.I.1509/18)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Sweep. R.A., Aircraft Carriers, with ARK ROYAL, RENOWN, HARDY, HERO and HOSTILE to carry out a sweep from 1800, 18/12. NEPTUNE, after rendezvous with R.A. A/C., to proceed through position 16.40 south, 27.50 west and thence to Freetown, arriving daylight 24/12. SEVERN to proceed through position 14.30 south, 21.30 west, and thence to Freetown at best possible speed. S.O., Force ### "X" asked to co-operate to northward. (C-in-C., S.A., 0950/18).

ALTMARK. Consequent on sinking of SPEE, ALTMARK may cross equator about 21/12. (D.O.D. (F), 1817/18/12).
Force X (C.in.C., S.A., 1001/19/12).
Dispositions on Station (C. in C., S.A., 1741/22/12).
HERMES for Convoy S.L.F. 14, Force X as covering force, (C. in C., S.A., 1707/24/12, C.N.S., 0014/27, C. in C., S.A., 1910/28).
Movements, C. in C., S.A., 1635/6/12).

Cancel my 1308/23/11, 0024/14 and 1745/15. Force K, NEPTUNE, 3rd Division and SEVERN to carry out a sweep in search of ALTMARK before returning to Freetown. (C.N.S., 0149/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Movements. 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers passed westbound for Casablanca (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 0932/18)
French Positions1200/19 (D.C. 0225/18)

East Indies.

Departures. 18/11 (S.O.(I) Colombo 1132Z/18)

South Atlantic.

C. in C. South Atlantic "congratulated "on the successful conclusion of your hunt for GRAF SPEE" (C.N.S. 0150/18)

Movements. (R.A.S.A.D. 0945/18) CUMBERLAND to patrol Plate area. DORSETSHIRE proceed direct to Plate and rendezvous with CUMBERLAND in San Boranban Bay 1000 2 + 2 22/12. Fuel and provision OLYNTHUS then patrol Plate area, next fuelling Montevideo. CUMBERLAND proceed Rio de Janeiro area. SHROPSHIRE proceed direct to Rio de Janeiro. CUMBERLAND and SHROPSHIRE to r.v. off entrance to Rio de Janeiro. 0900 2+ 2. 26/12, both fuel in harbour there. SHROPSHIRE then patrol River-Santos area. CUMBERLAND can be spared 28/12 to proceed as in (c) of Admiralty's 0148/18. Provided approval is obtained AJAX visit Montevideo and ACHILLES Buenos Aires 19/12, both ships proceeding to Falkland Islands 21/12. OLYNTHUS after refuelling DORSETSHIRE at anchorage F.O. at 0900 2 + 2 22/12 proceed to Trinidad, visiting Rio de Janeiro 28/12 (Later. Visits of AJAX and ACHILLES to Plate ports postponed. They will leave F.O. at 2330 2 + 3 18/12 for Falkland Is. arrived pm/21 (Cdr. Commanding S.A.D. 2130/18) Reasons for postponement (undesirable until question of German crew of SPEE disposed of) (R.A S A D 2125/18)

AJAX. Obtain permission for AJAX to visit Montevideo 19/12 (R A S A 1350/18 to Minister) inexpedient for at least 10 days. (N.A. Buenos Aires 2247/18)

S/M sighted. 0000/16 S/M sighted south of Santiago Cape Verde Is. Sound Lt. V. A.O. (Lisbon 1520/18) NEPTUNE attacked possible S/M 256 PGJA 20, (NEPTUNE 1900/18)

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Danish Frontier closed till 15/1/40, Even Germans not allowed to enter or leave. All leave to armed forces stopped in Northern area after 23/12 (N.A. Copenhagen 1850/18)

Raider. S.S. BEHAR (6100 tons) reports chased and 20 rounds fired at her 0730/13 in 44° 48' N. 13° 25' W. by raider (F.O. i/c London 1239/18) Unofficial information that pilot refuses to sail with German ship since sinking of DEPTFORD (Narvik 1243/19)

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

YERMAK
Danger area. Icebraker was here last week. Reported sailed am/16. (V.C. Liepaja 1416/18) May have sailed before 16/12. The ship-yard is to be transferred to Russian authorities in four months' time. V.C. Liepaja 1418/21) Copenhagen 2115/18 to all Danish Ships. Navigation prohibited and dangerous about Pakri Island inside the following limits. 23° 51.7' from the coast to 59° 21' and the line from that point to point 59° 23' 30" 24° 02' 30" where from the limit is the coast line back to the 53° 51.7'.

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HOME COMMANDS (Cont.).

Aircraft raid on Shipping. (Cont.) Of 16 fishing trawlers attacked by German aircraft with bombs and machine-gun fire (13 on Dec.17, 3 on Dec.18), two were sunk by the concussion of exploding bombs, three more damaged, and casualties amounting in all to 5 killed and 7 wounded were reported from fire. Three supplied no details of the attacks. (D.S., 23/12).

R.A.(D).H.F.D. Flag transferred from TITANIA to WOOLWICH at Greenock 0900/19 (R.A.(D)H.F.D. 1936/18).

British S/m's. positions. 0700/19 (D.C. 1921/18) 0700/18 and movements for following 24 hours (D.C.2012/17).

Invergordon C.C.Base. Now ready to operate. Net defence is not in place. No m/s vessels available to maintain searched and swept channels. (R.A. Invergordon 1456/18).

Ocean Convoys. Positions D.C. 1954/18. 2011/17. At 2000/18(A.C.W.A. 1301/18)
Escorts - dates of various ships are required in Halifax and U.K., refits, etc. (F.O.C. 3 B S. 1354/18)

Norwegian Convoy. Leakage of information. Intercepted signal that 5 English merchantmen are leaving Narvik to-day (D.N.I. 1946/18).

? Enemy Mining. A/C report large number of mines 52°16'N. 1°46'E. 1405/18. (Note. 280 drums of oil were jettisoned East of West Goodwin 9/12).

Lulea. Report on conditions daily. (D.N.I. 1214/18).

WEATHER.

04.00	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea, North Part.	S.W., light, increasing to gale in Shetlands.	Moderate.
North Sea. South Part. Horns Reef Channel W.Approaches.	N., moderate.	Moderate.

Outlook: Gale moderating in North. Little change elsewhere.

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HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

Air Reconnaissance. Further report (H.Q. Bomber Command 0415/19), four Wellingtons shot down by fighters, three more with tanks punctured seen heading towards Holland, further three missing and two reported down in sea.

In Wilhelmshaven docks from 15,000 ft., one battleship one pocket battleship and one cruiser observed. In Schillig Roads four ships at anchor fired at aircraft. Shore guns inaccurate. Naval fire fair to good, but mainly below.

Standing Bomber Patrol. Bombs were dropped on a ship and on lines of lights off Borkum. Result unknown.

British mine-laying. Further laying of the deep minefield off Folkestone (2.6.2.) was carried out.
Operation 1 B (minefield off Borkum) was completed and IVANHOE and INTREPID returned without incident.

Casualties.

LEARIG	See Raid on Shipping.
ALPIED	do.
TRINITY	do.
ACTIVE	do.
NEW CHOICE	do.

Aircraft raid on Shipping. A further raid on shipping on the East Coast by enemy aircraft took place.

Name.	Class.	Bombed.	Machine gunned.	Result.	Remarks.
OCEAN DRIFT	Trawler.	?	?	-	(Wick Radio 1047/18)
ETRURIA	"	Yes	?	Damaged.	Towed by SILANION (CARBINEER II 1525/18? I.C.O.0303/39; says sunk 3 men killed.
TRINITY	"	Yes	?	Sunk	(Wick Radio 1224/18)
ACTIVE	"	?	?	Sunk	CARBINEER II picked up 9 crew (Wick Radio 1608/18)
? name	"	?	?	Sunk	Reported by ERUKIA. Crew believed picked up (CARBINEER II 1525/18).
LEARIG	Motor patrol drifter.	-	Yes	-	No casualties or serious damage.(A.C.O.S. 1920/18).
ALPIED	"	-	Yes	-	Uncertain whether actually attacked; see (A.C.O.S.1920/18)
ASTROS	Trawler	Yes	Yes	No hits.	Slight damage. 10 bombs (C.in C.Rosyth 1727/19)
NEW CHOICE	"	Yes	Yes	No hits, but some damage. 7 bombs.	(C.in C. Rosyth 1727/19).
ZEILLUS ?				Sunk	(May be identical with another ship) c f. ZELOS 17/12.
STRAIT FISHER	S.S.	Yes	Yes.	No damage.	

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HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH covering the second Narvik convoy (8 ships) until it passed south of Shetlands. Convoy was due to rendezvous with 3 "J" class destroyers off Tranoy Lt. (68° 10' N.) at 2200/18.

Convoys. The homeward bound Norwegian convoy (H.N.5) consisting of 26 ships was due to sail 19/12. but was delayed two days so that battleship support might be made available. SOUTHAMPTON and EDINBURGH to cover this convoy also.
Consul, Bergen reports that instructions to delay the convoy were passed through the courtesy of the Norwegian Admiral. Since ships had sailed from Bergen this was the only way of getting orders through.
Convoy N.V.2 sailed from Narvik 1300/18 and is escorted by 4 "J" class destroyers.

Censorship. Can be stopped now. Snapcensorship of one or two bags from main base when at Greenock or Rosyth is very desirable. (C. in C. H.F. 1944/18)

Northern Patrol. Asking to be supplied with photos of German cruisers and above. Janes not supplied to ships of N.P. Important and difficult to recognise German ships, (V.A.N.P. 2215/18)
Between Scotland and Faroes 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland 2 "
In Denmark Strait 1 cruiser.
Arrangements for the various patrols (V.A.N.P. 2243/18)

Air. Reconnaissance. Usual air patrols, and, in addition, air reconnaissance and the Hudson battle flight cover the minelaying and anti-s/m operation. (See 17/12)
A reconnaissance in force to Brunsbuttel was carried out by 24 a/c's of Bomber Command with object o f attacking enemy warships not lying alongside. The following ships were seen (Corrected estimate after examination of photographs) 1 battlecruiser in building basin 1 P/B or Cr. alongside, 1 cruiser (possibly EMDEN) in dock, 5 destroyers (I.C.0304/39)
Not bombed owing to proximity, of buildings (H.A. Bomber Cmd. 1945/18)
The bomber a/c's were attacked by 25 Messerschmidt fighters and 4 or 5 of these were shot down. Four of our own a/c's were seen to be shot down and 8 more have failed to return. Three of these may have landed in Holland as their petrol tanks were holed. (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 1740/18)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet Strength.

On the assumption -
(a) That time may come when withdrawal of ships from abroad was justifiable in order to strengthen Northern Patrol,
(b) Owing to mine and air menace it is undesirable to maintain more large ships in home waters than is necessary,
Request views on number of battleships, battle cruisers, aircraft-carriers and 8-in. cruisers you should have under your command. (1st S.L., 2134/18).

Reply: Battleships, 3 (NELSON, RODNEY and VALIANT, with WARSPITE while NELSON refitting).
Battle-Cruisers, all 3.
Aircraft-Carriers, 1 standing by in Clyde or Plymouth until April, then 2.
Cruisers, all available with end in view, 28 8-in. and 6-in., of which 4 should be "D" class for Northern Patrol, 3 for Norwegian Convoy, and 5 for North Sea Force based on Rosyth, and ultimately 5 fleet cruisers when built to work with Battle Fleet. A.M.C.'s released to work on the trade routes. When Scapa is ready, four heavy ships will be sufficient until BISMARCK is ready, when 5 would be advisable. (C. in C., H.F., 1627/19).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked

CITY OF KOBE sunk 0335 British (4,373 tons) sailing in convoy F.S.56 sunk after an explosion off Lowestoft, probably mine. 52°35'N. 1°59' E. 18 survivors (inc. 9 Lascars) landed at Yarmouth, 9 men missing. Ship had been attacked 17/12 by aircraft which dropped bombs and machine-gunned the decks until chased off by a British machine (Associated Press message).

JYTTE sunk 0300 Danish (1,877 tons) mined 18 miles E. of Souter (Tyne) and sunk. 8 survivors of crew of 18, including the master, landed Tyne by Danish AVANCE. JYTTE was bound outward from Immingham with coal. (C. in C. Rosyth 1250/19 and 1705/19).

H.M.S. KHARTOUM missed. 1700 Missed by torpedo off Holy Island, Arran 55° 30' N. 5° 2' W. (See Attacks on S/m's).

MARS sunk Swedish, 1877 tons, of Stockholm, bound from Sweden to London with a cargo of wood pulp, sunk by mine 1 mile E. of Blyth. Master and 14 others rescued, 7 missing. (D.S. 25/12).

S/m's Reported.

1700 U-boat in position 55°30'N. 05°W. fired torpedo at KHARTOUM (See S/m's attacked)

2318 U-boat in position HTJT 2335. Reliable fix at 2318. WITHERINGTON and VIMY attacking and to rejoin convoy by daylight, relief by VOLUNTEER (C.in C.W.A. 0025/20).

a.m. U-boat reported on shipping route inside territorial waters off Maloy, Norway, (Lat. 62° 18' N.) (I.C.0305/39) (D.N.I.2306/20) Source French Naval Attache. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1715/20).

North Atlantic. Master of Norwegian CHR KNUDSEN reported sighting large s/m near Las Palmas 19/12. (V.A.N.P. 1940/29).

S/m's Attacked

1805 H.M.S. KHARTOUM made 3 attacks on U-boat which had fired a torpedo at her at 1700. Ordered to continue hunting until relieved by emergency destroyers. French sloop ALTAIR assisting. (C.in C.H.F. 1934/19). Hunt abandoned. 4 attacks made. No evidence as to result. (KHARTOUM, 1950/19). Air search requested at daylight tomorrow to cover possible area in which U-boat might be, hunting craft co-operating. (C.in C.H.F. 2321/19). From available evidence it appears unlikely that there was a U-boat present (C.in C.H.F.2318/21).

1655 H.M.S. DUNCAN attacked contact in position 50° 05'N. 03°16'W.(DUNCAN,1655/19, C.inC.W.A.1911/19).

2318 See S/m's. reported.

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ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands

AMERIKA, KIEL — Left night 19/20 loaded with ore (D.N.I. 0014/21).

ELEKTRA — In ballast arrived night 19/20 (Arendal 1212/20).

North Atlantic

THALIA — Motor ship about 4000 tons, uncertain whether German, anchored in bay (Cadiz 1709/19). Definitely German, looks like fast supply ship. Might depart night (Consul, Cadiz 2009/19). Now identified as THALIA (F.O.C.N.A. 2227/20).

PIONIER — No evidence that she is at Cadiz. (F.O.C.N.A. 2227/20)

South Atlantic

Suspicious Tanker

? ALTMARK — AFRIC STAR sighted 2000 GMT. 15/12 in 17° 10' S. 29° 50' W. tanker bearing name THORSNER, Norwegian flag newly painted on side and word 'Norge'. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 0859/19). Probably ALTMARK, but she may be 1800 miles from position given (C. in C.S.A. 1645/19). V.A.(A) and C. in C.H.F. were aksed whether ship of this description was sighted by any of their a/c's (C. in C.S.A. 1837/19).
Montevideo reports that master of AFRICA STAR did not report by W/T as he did not consider that ship he sighted agreed with description of German ship ALTMARK. On further investigation Chief Officer states that name on ship was THORSHEIMER, which ship did not appear in their edition of Lloyds Register but is a Norwegian tanker. (S.O. (I) Freetown, 1340/23).

Force K. — Force K. was ordered to search to the South-Eastward for 48 hours, to locate this ship, before sweeping back to Freetown.

America & W. Indies.

COLUMBUS. — HYPERION located COLUMBUS (32,500 tons) off coast of Florida 1617/19. The German set herself on fire and scuttled the ship. 597 survivors were picked up by U.S.A. cruiser TUSCALOOSA. (C. in C. W.I. 1617/19, 1809/19, 2230/19, 0121/20, 2305/19, HYPERION 1947/19, 0010/20).
Ministry of Marine requested to convey to French SS. SHEHERAZADE Admiralty's thanks for valuable report which contributed towards interception of COLUMBUS. (Head of M. 1428/22).

FOREIGN STATIONS (CONTD.)

Raiders' name plates. Forke K. — GRAF SPEE, DEUTSCHLAND, ADMIRAL SCHEER all had interchangeable cap ribbons and name plates (N.C.S.O. Bahia Blanca 1233/19)
Re. ALTMARK, Force K. has been steaming almost continually since 18/11. Consider advisable Force K. to return to Freetown in accordance with my 0950/18/12 unless more up to date information is received (C. in C.S.A. 1645/19).

America and West Indies

ARAUCA — You may establish patrol to prevent escape of ARAUCA (C. in C.W.A. & W.I. 1652/19 to ORION) ARAUCA arrived Port Everglades 19/12 (Jacksonville, Florida 1750/19). Port Everglades 26° 5' N. 80° 7' W. HEREWARD joining ORION near this position (C. in C.A.&.W.I. 0118/20). Suggest U.S.A. be asked to insist on her putting to sea within 24 hours or being interned. (C. in C.A.& W.I. 0311/20) This amounts to a request to treat her as warship. No evidence that she is armed or has been acting as supply ship. Inadvisable to approach U.S.A. Govt. (D.C.N.S. 1530/21). Hague Convention X does not apply to mercantile marine personnel. Your proposal not approved (Hd. of M. 1548/20)

DUSSELDORF — Re transfer to British registry under name POLAND (C. in C.A.&.W.I. 0125/19).

East Indies.

C.C. Base Aden. — Base now ready to carry out export control of Italian ships. Instructions asked for. Important to inform Italian Government of procedure. Consul, agents and masters still unaware of 15/12 agreement (C.C.S.O. Aden 1200Z/19).

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F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

North Atlantic

French movements F.O.C.N.A. 0901/19. (S.O.(I)Gib. 1402/19).

German Nationals Enemy now making regular practice of repatriating their nationals in America by embarking on ships, principally Italian, whose first port of call after Azores is Lisbon and sending them by air either from Azores or Lisbon. Inform French we can intercept off Spain; ask whether they can intercept off Azores. (Hd. of M. 1320/19).
Continue to intercept where possible. Not worth making H.M. ships available to intercept vessels (Carrying Germans) approaching Azores from Westward; French asked to assist in this. (Hd. of M. 1321/19).

French Convoy 11 ships escorted by French sloop ELAN passed west to east about 1200 (F.O.C.N.A. 1859/19)

S/m's fuelling Report that German s/m's. are refuelled at Ferrol (Spain), (Middle East I.C., Cairo 1433/19)
Norwegian M/V SARDINIA reported she was stopped 2130/12 in 42° 57' N.
11° 0' W. by U-boat. Arrival of French warship made U-boat submerge. (V.A.N.P. 1925/29).

Mediterranean

French movements. S.O.(I) Gib. 1402/19.

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE wreck In reply to Admiralty's 1233/19 exact position of wreck of ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE as given by Uruguayan authorities is 034°58'25" S. 056°18' 01" W. (N.C.S.O. Montevideo 1907/23).

CUMBERLAND Orders. Cancel proceeding to Rio de Janeiro. Proceed Falkland Is., embark 140 German prisoners ex USSUKUMA and KARL FRITZEN, then to Simonstown carrying out search for ALTMARK en route (Cde. Cmdg. S.A.D. 1202/19.

SHROPSHIRE To enter Rio de Janeiro area a.m./28 and fuel(do)

ACHILLES Undesirable to visit Buenos Aires just now (Ambassador, Buenos Aires Rec. 0400/19).

TACOMA Now anchored in inner harbour Montevideo by order of Uruguayan authorities (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2229/19).

ALTMARK Reported she had orders to proceed to Bahia or Pernambuco if she failed to rendezvous with GRAF SPEE. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1859/19.)
Past movements. Fuel supply (N.C.S.O. Bahia Blanca 1233/19).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Contraband Control Patrol.

M. 017550/39. H.M.S. GALATEA, Report of Proceedings on Contraband Control Patrol, 9th to 19th December, 1939.

HOME COMMANDS(Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence

Imports	Believed Germany trying to import by small merchant vessels up the Goteborg Canal (Oslo 1613/19)
SS. KANFO	Sailing between Denmark and Scotland; is owned by notoriously pro-German Dane (D.N.I. 0941/20)
Cattegat patrol	As from 18/12 two German destroyers have appeared on patrol in Cattegat (N.A. Copenhagen 1730/19)
Mines off Falsterbo	Swedish Naval Authorities think two ships sunk last week were by magnetic mines (A.N.A. Stockholm 1805/19)

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

OKTIABRSKAYA-REVOLUTIA.	Press reports this Soviet battleship has been sunk by Finnish coastal batteries.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Suspicious Vessel — Danish vessel was not fishing and place unsuitable for seine net fishing; she remained in same position until 1500/17 (C. in C. Rosyth 1304/19).

Enemy Mining — Unconfirmed report that parachute mines were dropped at 1815 by three enemy a/c's. 3 miles N.N.E. of Cross Sand Lt. V. (IC0304/39).
GRAFTON reported a "large number of German mines" in 51° 50' N. 1° 46' E. (I.C.0304/39). (GRAFTON 0900/19).
At 1307 two heavy explosions occurred approx. 5 miles N.N.E. of Seaham Lookout (Visibility ½ mile) (I.C.0304/39).
A Belgian ship reports that on 15/12 at 0227 "a mine exploded close astern" 4½ miles E true from North Goodwin Lt. V.

Unknown ship — XYLOPIA reports unknown ship 52° 45' N. 2° 40' E. 1258 steering N.E. full speed. Appearance of light cruiser, red band on funnel, camouflaged. (F.O. Humber 1350/19).

East coast convoys — After 23/12 FS. and FN. convoys will sail every other day between Tyne and Humber (C. in C. Rosyth 1330/19).

Ocean Convoys / **S/m escorts** — Positions (D.L.1907/19). Escorts (S.O.(I) Halifax 1519/19) S/m's to cease escort duty. (D.O.D.(F)1717/19).
NARWHAL, SEAL, CACHALOT no longer required for escort duty. (D.O.D.(F) 1718/19).

S/m's. positions — 0700/20 (D.C.1906/19, 1934/19).

Nore Command movements. — Expected movements period ending 0700/20. (C. in C. Nore 0630/19).

Lulea closed — Lulea definitely closed from 15/12, no further ship movements possible (Stockholm 1244/19).

SS. JAEGERSBORG — Left Leith 3/12 for Copenhagen. Asking for date of arrival and any subsequent movements, especially whereabouts on 16/12 (D.N.I. 1534/19).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea	N. W. Moderate	Moderate
Horns Reef . ..	S. E. Light..	Good
Channel	N. E. Moderate	Moderate
W. Approaches ..	N. E. Moderate	Moderate.

Outlook:- N.E. wind freshening in Channel and Western Approaches, otherwise little change.

War Diary

19. 12. 39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — BARHAM, REPULSE and 5 destroyers sailed from Clyde 1430/19 proceeding West of Hebrides to cover the return of convoy H.N.5 and N.V.2 to the U.K.

Northern Patrol — Between Scotland and Faroes - 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland - 2 cruisers, 4 A.M.C.'s.
In Denmark Strait ... ... 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Air Reconnaissance — Normal patrols. In addition, four special patrols by moonlight to prevent minelaying by enemy a/c's.

Moonlight Patrol. — The usual security patrols were carried out from dusk to midnight over Sylt and Borkum.

Free Bombing Area. — From 21/12 "Free Bombing Area" is established in North Sea. Area includes whole North Sea between Lat. 59° N. and 53°N. east of a line joining points 59°N. 1°E., 57°N.0°, 56°N. 1°W, 54°N.1°E, 53°N. 3°E. May attack on sight all vessels except s/m's. Arrangements (DOD.(H) 2208/19). Cancelled (D.S.O. 1208/21).

Enemy raid on shipping — There was considerable enemy air activity over the Northern part of the North Sea, particularly along the Norwegian coast as far as Bergen. Attacks on undefended fishing trawlers and drifters continued. At 1100 trawlers STRATHALBYN and STAR OF SCOTLAND were bombed and machine gunned East of the Shetlands. Both ships made port, but STAR OF SCOTLAND had 2 killed and 2 wounded, and her steering gear smashed. (A.C.O.S. 1726/19, 2019/19).

Trawlers sunk off Norway — British Trawler TRINITY N.B. was sunk by enemy a/c off Egersund. Eight bombs were dropped. One man drowned and one injured by machine gun fire while clinging to wreckage. Crew rescued by Danish trawler and landed at a Norwegian port. British Trawler RIVER EARN (Times 23/12 called her RIVER ANNAN) was sunk at 0900 by 2 enemy a/c's. 20 bombs were dropped. Crew given time to take to boat, picked up 36 hours later and landed at Kopervik by the Norwegian ROGALAND. RIVER EARN last known to have been fishing 150 miles E. by N. from May Island. She had three survivors of Danish BOGO on board, also landed Kopervik by ROGALAND. (C. in C. Rosyth 1851/22).

? date — Panamanian SS. UKO (757 tons) with crew of Estonian seamen was sunk by a/c's. in North Sea. The attack was similar to that carried out on the TRINITY N.B. Three were injured and when the crew and 3 women took to the lifeboat two of the women were wounded by machine gun fire. After 15 hours they were picked up by the Swedish SIR ERNEST CASSEL and landed at Kopervik.

Suspicious Signalling — Re. stations (? ship) obviously acting as W/T beacons. (Air Min. D/F Kirkwall 1442/19).

Suspicious Vessel. — British fishing trawler sighted a Danish Seine net fishing vessel 54° 5' N., 3° 0' E. p.m./16.

Danish/

War Diary.

20.12.39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. (Contd.).

S/M's Attacked.

1300)
)
1615)
)

A/S Trawler ARCTIC EXPLORER attacked S/M in Shapinsay Sound, Orkneys (096° Hellier Holm Lt. Ho. 3.35 miles). Some oil. (V.A.N.P. 1819/20). Same S/M sighted lying on bottom by a/c and was again attacked; no hits estimated. Trawler NORTHERN ISLES also dropped d/c's. Hunt continues. (I.C.0305/39).

Area covering entrance to Shapinsay Sound and channel through Sound have now been swept. No mines have been located and passage has been opened to traffic. A/S trawler reported contacts with an obstruction on the bottom in position 096°, from Helliar Holm lighthouse 4.3 miles, which is 096° 9.5 cables from original position of attack. This will be further investigated when weather permits. (V.A.N.P. 2030/23). A/S trawler confirmed contact. Obstruction located by sweeping with grapnels in this position lying in same direction as that estimated by A/S trawlers. .Position has been buoyed and diving operations by metal industries divers will be carried out (V.A.N.P.,1540/24). Divers went down but were prevented by strong currents from investigating obstruction. Further diving tomorrow (V.A.N.P., 1641/25).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

NAPIER sunk. 2144 — Admiralty tug, believed sunk in 51°15'45"N.,1°25'E Blown up. No survivors.

ADOLF BRATT sunk. — Swedish (1323 tons) sunk by mine off Terschelling approx. 53°28'N.,5°08'E. Five of crew killed, 16 rescued by Latvian AUSEKLIS and taken to Hook of Holland. 53°28'N.,5°8'E. (N.A. Hague 1235/22). This is on south edge of British declared area.

VEGA sunk. — Swedish (1073 tons) mined 53°26'N.,5°6'E (2 miles south of British declared area (N.A. Hague 1235/22). Swedish VENERN landed 17 survivors (4 injured, 3 badly). Capt. Johnnsson of VEGA stated both she and VENERN were in convoy from German Bight ("Telegraaf" 22/12).

S/M's reported.

1325 — Sighted by a/c course 170° in 54°20'N.,3°50'E (I/C 0305/39).

1630 — Aircraft reports submarine at the bottom, approx. position 103°. Helliar Holm 2.7 miles (N.O.I.C., Kirkwall 1712/20).

1610 — S/M reported at entrance to Kirkwall. ESCAPADE ordered to hunt (F.O.C.C.O.S., 1610/20).

1540 — S/M reported by civilian in act of submerging between Ardnoe Point and Rabbit Island at mouth of Loch Ginan, Agyllshire, reliability value B/4 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1559/20).

North Atlantic.

1125 — Possible U-boat 39°N.,22°W., position very approximate (D.N.I.1339/20). No longer considered reliable (O.I.C.,0308/39).

Vigo. — Search of Norwegian M/V SARDINIA shows no evidence that U-boat boarding party was landed at Vigo. Confirming statements were obtained as to abandoning of ship on instructions of U-boat. (V.A.N.R. 2245/20).

S/M's Attacked.

0725 — H.M.S. KHARTOUM attacked firm contact position 343°Y.X. B.C., 20 (6 miles S. of Arran I.)., trawler LORD SNOWDEN in company (KHARTOUM 0725/20) No report of success.

1110 — H.M.S. FOWEY attacked good contact position 50° 28'1°10' (FOWEY 1110/20). Ordered to continue hunt (C-in-C., Portsmouth 1350/20).

War Diary.

20.12.39.
Wednesday.

ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

WALKUERE	Arrived from Eastward 1545/20 (Arrival 1630/20).
CLEOPATRA	Has sailed from here (Oslo 1557/20).
OLBERS) KEPLER) FORTUNA) TRITON(?))	Have arrived (dc).
KELLERWALD	Departure 2330/20 loaded with ore (Narvik 1137/21).

America and West Indies.

Diesel oil Bunkers, reported from Callao A.1.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1840/20).

RHAKOTIS	900 tons.
HERMONTHIS	700 "
MÜNCHEN	700 "
LEIPZIG	30 "
MONSERRATE	30 "
FRIESLAND	30 "

War Diary.

20. 12. 1939,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Convoy. D. of S.T.'s 1918/17 and 1538/19. Owing to difficulty regarding fuelling and berthing in Sydney, New Zealand convoy will not now call at Sydney. Fuel requirements. (Australian Naval Board, 0816Z/20).

America and West Indies.

T.C.2 Delay. Owing to non-arrival of transport British ships ORAMA, CHROBRY it is anticipated that T.C.2 will be delayed at least 24 hours. (Capt., Dockyard, Halifax, 1057/20).

War Diary.

20.12.39.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Diego Suarez. Development as S/M base would be desirable if required to base a number of S/M's there for longer than 3 months (C-in-C E.I. 0306 Z/20).

Italian C.C. Efforts being made to encourage Italians to accept control at Avon by expeditions treatment there. (D.E.W.D.1050/20).

South Atlantic.

Amiral Afrique. V.A. Etienne Ollive appointed C-in-C Maritime Forces, South Atlantic and Africa, short title Amiral, Afrique. Arrangements. (D.O.D.(F) 1329/20).

S/M S.S. CRISTALES (Br.) reported 1645/20 that she was firing at a S/M 180 miles west of Freetown. At 1745 still firing. A destroyer was sent from Freetown to her assistance. As S/M took no hostile action during an hour's engagement it is thought probable ship may have mistaken her target. (C-in-C S.A. 1823/20, 0910/21).

Capt.Langsdorf. Committed suicide (N.A. Buenos Aires 1250/20).

Mediterranean.

Embargo. Royal Netherlands S.S. Co., have offered satisfactory agreement. Ships need not be sent to Malta for examination except on positive grounds of suspicion. Right reserved to send them in for examination of mails and passengers (D.E.W.D., 1648/20).

Australia.

Movements of Foreign M.V's. Arrangements made for Lloyd's Agents to telegraph actual date of movements of foreign merchant vessels commencing 1/1/40. (Australian C'wealth N.B.1055 Z/20).

China.

N.C.S. Staffs. N.C.S. Staff are established at Penang, Singapore, Batavia Sourabaya, Bombay, Manila, Hong Kong, Shanghai. It is intended to establish staff at Balik Papan (C-in-C China 0430 Z/20). Intend to withdraw S/M from Mentawei Island patrol about 3/1 continuing patrol of Sunda Strait and Pulo Teh area with surface craft supported by S/M as necessary. Mentawei and Nicobar Is. will be searched from time to time (Cdre. Malaya 0430 Z/20)

North Atlantic.

French movements. A.M.C. VILLE D'ORAN passed E. to W. 2250/19 (S.O. (I) Gib. 0944/20). Positions 1200/20 (D.C.0330/20).

War Diary.

20.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea	N. Moderate to fresh.	Good in N. Poor in S.
Horns Reef.	W. Moderate	Moderate to poor.
Channel	N.E. Moderate to fresh.	Poor.
W.Approaches.	N.E. Light to moderate.	Moderate.
Outlook	Little change, some rain.	

Enemy Intelligence.

Heavy ship at sea.	Large German warship apparently DEUTSCHLAND class passed Great Belt 1630/20 steaming North. Known fact. (N.A. Copenhagen 1810/20, D.S.O 1924/20 to ships and authorities in Area A, H.Q.C.C., Bomber Cmd, and S/M's). See also 21/12 for C-in-C H.F.'s remarks.
HEMLAND	Swedish. Released. (F.O.C.N.P.1250/20).
TEJO	Norwegian in ballast from Karlskrona to Tyne to load coal for Gothenburg was stopped in Skagerrak 18/12 and taken into Heneage (N.A. Oslo 1715/20).

War Diary. 20.12.39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. See 21/12.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkneys and Faroes one cruiser.
" Faroes " Iceland 2 " , 6 A.M.C.'s
In Denmark Strait 1 " , 1 "

Enemy Air activity. British a/c's escorting F.S. Convoy off Newcastle sighted a German a/c attacking a trawler with 4 bombs and machine gun fire. No hits obtained and German a/c driven off.

Air Reconnaissances. Special A/S patrol west of Hebrides to cover BARHAM and REPULSE and a standing patrol of 2 Blenheims fighters to cover fishing vessels.

Standing trawler protection patrol. Fighter Command asked, as result of German air attacks on fishing boats, to maintain standing patrol of Blenheim fighters over fishing area of Lowestoft and Grimsby trawling fleets, and to consider urgently the possibility of providing more effective air protection for fishing vessels in North Sea. (Air Min. 0025/20).

Security patrols. Usual security patrols over German seaplane bases at Sylt and Borkum from dusk to midnight.

Minelayers. Duties and areas for and in which they could be used. Recommend that until TITANIA is ready MAIDSTONE and THAMES class should be withdrawn to form a flotilla at home of 3 THAMES, 4 M/C's and 2 Poles (R.A.(S) 1430/20).

Casualties. S/M SEAL engine defects to 30/12 (S(5) 1430/20). Adty. tug NAPIER was blown up off Ramsgate at 2144. No survivors.

Enemy mining. A parachute fell about 1715/20 in the Thames off Thames Haven. Position fix was 166° from West of Thames Haven jetty.
216° from West of Horshoe Bay jetty.
092° " West Blyth buoy.
A trawler reports that she has buoyed objects dropped by a/c's in 51°47'N,1°27'E.

Norwegian patrols. Norwegian pilots have requested to be convoyed in Norwegian territorial waters. Norwegian Adty. have met request by patrolling and convoying at exposed positions with instructions to patrol that submerged S/M's in territorial waters are to be d/c'd or bombed. Special attention being paid to secret W/T transmitter sending stations. (N.A. Oslo 1700/20).

Ocean Convoys. Positions (D.C.2020/20).

S.S.JAEGERSBORG. 1200/16 approx. 150 miles W. of Skaw. Not yet reported Leith (left Copenhagen 14/12 for Leith (N.A. Copenhagen 1145/20) See also 19/12, 16/12.

S/M's positions. 0700/20 (D.C. 2015/20).

Nore movements. For period ending 0700/21 (C-in-C., Nore 0615/20)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.
(Contd.)

read 'Do not slip! Submarine then appeared to steam at high speed in a S.W. direction. Contact was then lost and regained in about an hour's time about 3 miles S.W. of original position; attack was carried out, no result, no further contact. (F.O.I.C. Harvich 1514/22).

S/m's attacked.

1015 ABERDEEN made 3 d/c attacks on contact 50°6' N. 1° 54' W. No result. Believed non-sub. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1154/21, ABERDEEN 1900/21, 1016/21, 1420/21).

1940 WOLVERINE heard motors, made 2 attacks 90° Start Pt. 20 miles (WOLVERINE 1940/21, 2228/21, 0050/22). At 1940/22 target moved to eastward and WOLVERINE dropped further d/c's. reporting target again stationary. Electrically fired d/c's. were sent for.
ARDENT ordered to join in attack (C. in C.W.A. 1022/22). WOLVERINE attacking 1148/22, lost contact and searching 1115/22. ARDENT report target 6 fathoms high (WOLVERINE 1618/22). At 1215, 23/12, electrically fired depth charges were fired by a trawler over the believed position of S/m located by WOLVERINE. No results, and hunt was abandoned (D.C.N.S.)at 1600/23 (WOLVERINE 1528/23)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked.

DOSINIA 0240 Tanker (British 5053 tons) mined in position 1½ miles S.W. Haisboro Lt. V. In Convoy FN.57. Salvage probably possible. Trawler told to stand by. (H.M.S. WESTON 0240/21, C. in C. Nore 0425/21). Haisboro Lt. V. reports position ½ mile S.W. ship standing by. Cromer lifeboat launched and proceeded position (D.O. Cromer 0325/21). ST. DONAT to position 9 miles S. of Cromer Knoll L.V. to divert southbound traffic. PELTON to position K. to divert northbound traffic. No further action considered necessary (C. in C. Nore, 0919/21). She got into Hull safely P.M. Dec. 22.

BAYONET destroyed 1500 Boom working vessel mined off Leith. 3 crew missing, one seriously injured, 27 slightly injured. Believed to be a British mine.

COMITAS beached 1801 Italian (3482 tons) mined off Teneuseu (Belgium). Towed into Flushing by Dutch tug and beached. Crew safe, some are injured. ("Telegraaf" 22/12 says date of mining was 20/12. So badly damaged that there is little hope of saving her).

RUDOLF Norwegian (924 tons) mined in North Sea. Master and 7 of crew landed at Kopervik in Norway, 6 missing. 58° 7' N. 1° 32' E. (Not to be confused with Swedish ship of same name reported sunk 4/12. Deutschlandsender broadcast, 1300, 23/12).

MARS sunk about 1500 Swedish, 1475 tons, of Helsinborg, outward bound from Leith for Stockholm with a cargo of coal, sunk by a mine in North Sea. Crew rescued by Swedish CARL HENCKEL. (D.S.) 57°0'N. 0° 17' E. (Kristiansands THI 1400/27).

CARL HENCKEL sunk Swedish, 1352 tons, which had picked up the crew of the MARS, was herself mined and sunk an hour later at 57.00 N., 0.17 E. (Kristiansands THI. 1400/27).
Only one of the crew of the MARS survived the second disaster. Seven from CARL HENCKEL landed at Christiansand (D.S.).

S/m's reported

1715 D.F. Unknown enemy unit 54° N. 3° 20' E. unreliable fix (D.N.I. 1735/21).
1330 By a/c 52°57'N.1°55'E. (Probably 0920 below).
0920 By a/c 209° HTBC.32 (WINCHELSEA 1330/21)
2120 By A/S Trawler CAPE WARWICK 52°N. Foreland 7 miles. Unit Officer CAPE WARWICK reports that at 2045/21 when in position 51°27'N. 1°36'E. he obtained contact at about 1000 yards. After a short period he received a signal when at about 700 yards range by underwater transmission, a series of groups of Letter A, the submarine identification signal for the hours 2100 to 2400 of that dy. Signal was the made to Harwich reporting this fact. CAPE WARWICK continued to close, maintaining contact, when at about 200 yards range submarine made signal in slow morse which read/

War Diary

21. 12. 39.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

ELEKTRA
WALKUERE
} Both left here during night (Arundel 1012/21).

China

SCHARNHORST
SCHEER
(At Kobe) Decided to discharge wolfram ore. (S.O.(I) Hong Kong 0450Z/21).
SCHEER (At Macassar). Arrested on claim by Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Cable intercept)

America & W. Indies

ALTMARK
as
THORMER
Admiral Antilles reports her possible position course towards Germany 38°S. 50°W. speed 20 knots at 2300 GMT. 17/12. Not confirmed. More reports give her as THORMER 17° 0' S. 30° 0' W. 15/12 at 0200 G.M.T. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 2000/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Black Sea Situation.	Suggestion to point out to Turks that improvement of the defences of their naval bases is an essential prerequisite to any co-operation. (Sec., D.C.N.S., approved by DCNS, 1531/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Unconfirmed report that German Government attempting to secure agreement of Japanese Government to German naval operations in Far East outside a zone 250 miles length coast. Possible that German Naval Officers believed to be in Vladivostock are destined for German ships in Japan such as KOBE and REGENSBURG. (C. in C. China 0208Z/21).

America & W. Indies

Neutral crews and war risks — Reports being received that Officers and crews of certain neutral ships are refusing to sail from U.S.A. on account of mine and other war risks, or that they are demanding extortinate bonuses. A number of desertions are believed to have occurred and consuls have been instructed to exercise their powers (Post & Tel. 107).

Movements — In view of movements of French and British forces on this side being dependant on date of sailing request estimated date may be reported immediately when known. If you have no news of ORAMA and CHROBRY, they should be ordered to break W/T silence in order to report their position. (D.O.D.(F) 1326/21 to Capt.D.Y. Halifax).

Personnel Changes — French base staff to take passage in battleship DUNKERQUE. Movements of British personnel and appointments (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1308/21).

Shadowing of Ships — PERTH and HEREWARD uhder daily observation from U.S. ships and aircraft. U.S. news broadcast 8/12 announced that a cruiser had been seen by patrol aircraft in Gulf of Mexico. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2145/21).

North Atlantic

French positions — 1200/21 (D.C.0026/21). S/m's 1330/21. (F.O.C. W.A. 1322/21).

South Atlantic

ACHILLES Thanks — Reply to Government of New Zealand message of congratulation (H.M.S. ACHILLES 0927/21).

East Indies

SUFFREN arrived 1030Z/21 (N.O.i/c Trincomalee 1240Z/21).

Mediterranean

Air Casualties — Three naval Officers were passengers in Imperial Airways plane reported overdue. Left Sollum 0820/21, due at Malta 1245/21, last reported 1020/21. Names are:- Lieuts. P.L.Hocking, W. Ashton and A.A.C. Gage. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria 1041Z/22). Lieut. Ashton picked up by Maltese sailing boat 23/12.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Floating mines — Several observed between Fkeroc Lt. Ho. and north of Haugesund 21/12 (Norwegian Adty. B.B.C. intercept).

SCHEER — Reported that the ADMIRAL SCHEER left Wilhelmshaven 12/12 for a long cruise. This may account for presence of German battle fleet in North Sea when SALMON attacked (O.I.C. 0325/39).

LEIPZIG — Reported she has a hole in her bottom and also in the forepart of the ship, caused by torpedoes.

ZENKER, LUCHS, FALKE — Destroyers. Reported to be in Wilhelmshaven, damaged by mines.

Contraband Control — The following ships are reported as having been taken to German ports by the German Contraband Control since 6/12:-

Name	Flag	Tonnage	Taken on	To
NAISSAR	Estonian	1893	Before 12/12	Kiel
SKRUNDA	Latvian	1467	" 15/12	Kiel
KEGUMS	-do-	5525		-
EVEROJA	-do-	4530		Hamburg
ROMEO	Estonian	797	15/12	Swinemunde
SEINE	Danish	1358	Before 13/12	-
ESTONIA	Estonian	1181	" 13/12	Swinemunde
ALEXANDRA	Danish	1463	Released 10/12	Memel
FLORA	-do-	1218		-
TEJO	Norwegian	967	18/12	-

On 19/12 the Germans claimed to have released 18 Swedish steamers which had been taken into German ports by the German C.C.
The Estonian MINNA (1365 tons) whose cargo of 8250 bales of cellulose for U.S.A. was confiscated by German Prize Control is reported also to have been released.

Battleship returns — Informed by Danish Naval Secretary that large German warship passed south through Great Belt early a.m./21, apparently alone. (N.A. Copenhagen 1140/21). Passed 1253/21 to ships and authorities in Areas A. and s/m's. H.Q.C.C. Bomber Command. The report of her leaving and returning would appear to be part of war of nerves. She took great care to be seen on way out and may have hoped to get back unseen. Suggest mines be laid by s/m minelayer 56° 7'20"N. 11°11'30" E. (C. in C.H.F.2317/21) But see 28/12.

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR

Soviet Naval Action — Estimated numbers and class of Soviet ships in Arctic based on Murmansk. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1132/21)

Russian battleship and destroyer in action off Kotka, between Helsinki and Viipuri (Viborg); were beaten off by Finnish coastal batteries according to French sources (Beromunster 0600/22).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd)

Ocean Convoys Positions (D.C. 1950/21)

Port A. & Rosyth & Invergordon Defences. Resources insufficient to provide permanent A.A. defences at present at Port A. A-A. guns to be returned to former positions when present emergency has lapsed. Concur undesirable to reduce A.A. defence of Rosyth. Question of increased scale of defence for Invergordon and temporary A.A. defence at Port A. if subsequently required is being investigated. (D. of L.D. 1058/21) See also 16/12 and D. of L.D. 2049/21.

Nore Commend Movements. For period ending 0700/22. (C. in C. Nore 0634/21)

O.S. Trial Sumburgh O.S. trial with s/m H.34. was succesafully carried out 20/12. (A.C.O.S. 1126/21).

Western Approaches Dispositions 1800/21 (C. in C.W.A. 1800/21)

S/m's. positions 0700/22. (D.C. 1922/21)

Commander, Orkneys and Shetlands. Responsibilities Responsible to A.C.O.S. for "local operational control" of all units, with effect from this date. What this includes. (D. of L.D. 2145/21)

Marine Risks Condition of 6 ships reported in distress 21/12. All afloat, no danger to life. (Trondhjem 1100/22)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea - North Part	S.W. Gale)	Moderate to
South Part	E. Moderate)	Good
Horns Reef	Light, variable	Good
Channel	E. Moderate to strong	Poor to good
Western Approaches	S. E. Fresh	Moderate

Outlook: Wind veering in South and West.

Enemy Intelligence.

Mines Area within a radius of 30 miles from Blaavand Light between 180° and 270° is clear of mines authority German Patrol Vessel (Consul, Esbjerg 1600/21).

Copper shortage Examination of fragments of German shells reveals that only the outside parts of driving bands are made of copper, the inside being of iron. The shells in question were, according to markings, of 1936 manufacture.

Several instances have occurred of seizure or detention by the Germans of Swedish vessels carrying cargoes of timber. Now appears that timber is being conveyed from Sweden to Holland in German ships, Delfzyl being principally used.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

entering - Adty. to be notified. Restrictions do not apply to s/m's. which are provided for by "submarine sanctuaries." (D.O.D.(H) 1916/21). Cancel 1916/21. Admiralty will continue to keep air authorities informed of free bombing area, consulting C. in C. Nore, and C. in C. Rosyth, as requisite (D.O.D.(H) 0117/23).

Enemy air Activity

At 1515 six enemy a/c's. were reported off St. Abb's Head. Fighters went up but failed to intercept.
At 1710 one enemy a/c crossed the coast near North Foreland and eventually left the coast near Whitstable, passing over our searched channels. Two fighters were sent up but did not make contact.

Minelaying Base

Master of Danish Vessel NORDVEST at Vancouver reports that German minelaying aircraft are based in cove on Danish Western Coast (N.S.HQ. Ottawa, 1644/21).

Ice at Lulea

A Secret report has been received that Lulea was finally closed on 21st December, a small Swedish icebreaker having kept the channel open last week for ships already chartered. She has now sailed for the South and no steps will be taken to re-open until the Spring. (N.I.D. I. 23/12).

Casualties

BAYONET — Boom working vessel, struck a British mine while about to work on an obstruction off Leith, 3 of crew missing, believed killed, one seriously injured (C. in C. Rosyth 1605/21). 10 slightly injured in hospital (S.B.D. 1015/12)

DROMIO — Fishing trawler DROMIO armed with 12 pounder gun of Iceland convoy number 6, in collision with Italian ship VOLDARNO at 2100 21/12, sunk 4 miles north (true) from Whitby at 1630 22/12. No casualties. (N.O.i/c, Middlesbrough 1340/22).

Unexplained explosions

Two unexplained explosions occurred off Orfordness at 1436.
One 1·7 miles 52° from Orfordness Lt. V.
One 3·6 " 179° " " " "
Two unexplained explosions reported by Seahouses about 4 miles N.N.E. of Seaham at 1015.
Two unexplained explosions off Amble at 2306.

Enemy mining

In the last few days humerous floating mines have been reported between Dungeness and Beachy Hd. from 5 to 10 miles from the coast.

Embargo

On 21/12 the following ships were in British Contraband Ports:-
Kirkwall 26 (incl. 13 Norwegian), Ramsgate 35 (inc. 28 Dutch), Weymouth 8. Total 69.

War Diary

21. 12. 39.
Thursday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S

Home Fleet

WARSPITE and HOOD in Clyde will have steam at one hour's notice at 0800.
REPULSE, BARHAM and 4 destroyers are East of Faroes, proceeding to cover the Narvik and H.N. convoys.
In consequence of a report from N.A. Copenhagen of a large German warship passing North through Great Belt at 1630/20 the following dispositions were ordered. (C. in C.H.F. 2240/20, 2147/20, 1120/21):-

(1) EDINBURGH and SOUTHAMPTON close cover for H.N. Convoy due to leave Norwegian coast at daylight 21/12.
(2) NEWCASTLE and GLASGOW and 2 destroyers to patrol Fair Island Channel.
(3) S/m's. L23 and STURGEON to positions 10 and 25 miles south respectively of Ryvingen Light (southern point of Norway) (R.A.(S) 2112/20)
(4) S/m THISTLE to position 80 miles West South West of this Light (R.A.(S)2201/20)

The German warship was not sighted by air patrols and on receipt of a report from N.A. Copenhagen that a similar type of warship had passed South through the Great Belt C. in C. H.F. ordered NEWCASTLE to return to Scapa and GLASGOW to proceed to Rosyth (C. in C. H.F. 1547/21). The three submarines returned to their normal patrol positions.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers
" Faroes " Iceland 1 cruiser, 5 A.M.C.'s.
In Denmark Strait ... ... 1 " 1 "
"At present all ships are boarded when weather permits and all Eastbound ships are sent in unless in possession of clearances."(V.A.N.P. 1854/21).

Air Reconnaissance

Owing to the report of a German battleship passing the Belts, the normal air patrols were strengthened as follows:-

(a) Parallel track searches between Peterhead and Flamborough Head to Norwegiean coast and Horns Reef, commencing at daylight.
(b) One Sunderland to be off Norwegian coast at Oberstadt at daylight.

Bomber Forces.
(c) 24 a/cs. to be over Oberstadt at 0930
(d) 3 Squadrons ready at Kinloss
(e) 5 Squadrons at one hour's notice.

The German warship was not sighted on 21/12 and at 1140/21 N.A. Copenhagen reported that a similar type of warship had passed South through the Great Belt.

Free Bombing Area

Extended for 21/12 only to 60° N. between 2° E. and Norwegian territorial waters (D.C.0013/21). This signal and the original signal establishing the free bombing area (2208/19) were cancelled by D.S.O. 1208/21. Reestablished. Ships entering/

War Diary

21. 12. 39.
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entering/

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING (Contd.)

Submarines attacked.

1015-1200 By two M. A/S boats P.39 and No.1 operating in Clyde approaches 55°56'N. 4°54'W. (F.O.I.C. Clyde 1902/22).

2045 A/S trawler CAPE WARWICK obtained contact on U-boat in Thames Approaches. As A/S trawler closed the submarine latter repeated several times the signal letter of the day from 2100 to midnight and made "Do not slip" so trawler was deterred from attacking. Later it was established that submarine was German, and attacks were carried out, without result. (D.C.N.S.) (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 1514 and 2220/22).

War Diary. 22.12.39.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

GRYFEVALE beached.

1340 British 4434 tons was mined off Whitley Bay (in a prohibited area). Ship did not sink and was subsequently beached near entrance to Tyne. Towed into Tyne and berthed. (Cullercoats Radio 1342/22).

Submarines reported.

0658 54°10' N. 4° E. Position by D/F unreliable (D.N.I.0721/22).

1643 D/F, unknown enemy unit 55°12' N. 4°50' E, reliable fix (D.N.I.1706/22).

1500 Navy Dunkirk reports from reliable source 5 submarines 700 tons seen 5 miles from Texel steering N.W., and 8 submarines 250 tons seen 7 miles from Ymuiden steering S.W. (V.A.Dover 2215/22). French aircraft in pairs will search between Dunkirk and Hook of Holland to a depth of 25 miles from coast starting dawn 23/12. Six destroyers at Dunkirk will be at short notice. (Adty 2352/22). (see also 23/12).

North Atlantic.

0930 38°17' N. 10° 59' W.)
1330 37°17' N. 10° 27' W.) reported by British ship DORSET, both courses south. (F.O.C.N.A.1809/22).

1141 39°N 20° W. (270 miles east of Azores) enemy unit - possibly U-boat. (I.C.0307/39) (D.N.I.1328/22). No longer considered reliable (O.I.C.0308/39).
Master of British ship DORSET certain 2 U-boats were operating a.m. 22/12 between the parallels Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent in longitude 011° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2150/23).

FOREIGN STATIONS (continued)

unit. In meantime I consider DORSETSHIRE and SHROPSHIRE should concentrate and operate between Rio de Janeiro and Rio de la Plata areas in event of SCHEER or DEUTSCHLAND coming towards S. Atlantic (C-in-C S.A. 1730/22)

East Indies

Cuddalore — Cuddalore. No objection to Cuddalore being a Class 2 routing port. (D.N.I. 1641/22)

Safety of Suez Canal — Information from Massawa about German merchant ships there is inadequate should they be contemplating any attempt to scuttle a ship in Suez Canal. (C.S.I. 1346/22)

China

Germans at Vladivostok — Reported presence of German personnel at Vladivostok and the possibility of their joining German ship in Japan has been reported to Ministry of Marine, and that for Japanese to permit Germans to come to Japan for this purpose would be an unneutral act. M. of M. showed considerable interest and stated that situation would be watched, whilst German authorities are no doubt using counter arguments. (N.A. Tokio 1409Z/22)

Movements — Movements of British and French warships (S.O. (I) Singapore 1013Z/22)

German Merchant Ships

ELIZABETH)
LAS PALMAS) — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1249/22)

HERCULES)
ADRIAN) — Arrived -do-

BARENFELS)
TREUENFELS) — left Narvik loaded with ore. There are now no German ships at Narvik.
GOLDENFELS)

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — Expected to sail from Santos 23/12. B.3. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1412/22 SHROPSHIRE proceed at 22 knots (C-in-C S.A. 1235/22)

BABITONGA — Also ready. Report suggests she would be sailing in company with two other ships and a s/m. (do)

North Atlantic

HUNTSECK — Has loaded motor launch (Seville 1940/22)

China

STASSFURT — 7395 tons, which has been at Tjilatjap (Java) since Sept. 7 when she arrived there from Adelaide, has now been sequested as the result of a claim by a British oil company for £33,772

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions — 1200/22 (D.C. 0224/22) A.M.C. VILLE D'ORAN passed W. to E. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0928/22) D.C. 1948/22

Suspicious vessels — Investigate suspicious vessel 270° Rhoscolyn Hd. 12 miles (C-in-C W.A. 1125/22 to WHIRLWIND)
Admiral Africa reports French s/m sighted large darkened liner 35° 40'N, 21° 40'W at 2330/21 steering south 20 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1514/22)
Probably DURBAN CASTLE (D.N.I. 1748/22, 1831/22)

Mediterranean

Danube ice — No ice Bucharest (Bucaresti 2100/21)

Oil fuel shipments to Italy — Arrangements Italian Government furnish advance particulars and guarantees of destination. Such vessels to be allowed to proceed subject to such verification of cargoes as is possible at sea. (D.E.W.D. 1845/22)

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE Officers — Request number of officers that GRAF SPEE should carry. Number landed at Buenos Aires said to be low. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1752/22) Reply: Peace time complement 51 including 19 midshipmen. Number may have been increased by disembarking midshipmen prior to departure from Germany and substituting officers for boarding parties. (D.N.I. 1642/22)
Learnt from official sources in Buenos Aires that the numbers of German personnel landed in that city from GRAF SPEE are 38 officers, 47 cadets, and 950 ratings. (D.S. 27/12)

EXETER prepared to ram. — Further information regarding action off River Plate. EXETER in spite one remaining gun being aft and steering much hampered, proposed ram GRAF SPEE, as cruiser was otherwise ineffective. Squadron had rehearsed tactics on eve of battle exactly as carried out, striking testimony of preparedness of H.M. ships. (D.N.I. Bi-weekly telegram, 1640/22

DORSETSHIRE — To proceed towards Santos at 23 knots on completion of fuelling (C-in-C S.A. 1705/22) Cancel. DORSETSHIRE to proceed in accordance with R.A.S.A.D. 1157/22 (C.-in-C. S.A. 2315/22)

Patrols Force G. — When two 6 inch cruisers and two A.M.C.'s are available in area of S.A.D. A & W.I. they are to be based at Falkland Is. and patrol Plate and Rio de Janeiro areas. Force G. to be a hunting

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Troop Convoy. My 1701/6. In view of District N.O. Fremantle's 0205/21, programme in C. in C. East Indies 1044/6 should be adhered to. Request that RAMILLIES be directed to proceed Wellington and not to Auckland. Request requirements of fresh provisions. (Navy Office, Wellington, 1222/22).

Australia.

RAMILLIES. Ref. 1222 from Navy Office, Wellington, request that decision may be deferred until my arrival at Melbourne. (RAMILLIES, to Australian Naval Board, 1049/22). Your 1049/22 approved. Requirements of fresh provisions in New Zealand should be signalled to Navy Office, Wellington, on arrival Melbourne. (Australian Naval Board, 0125Z/23).

America and West Indies.

Flagship, 3rd B.S. R.A. 3rd B.S. hoisted his flag in REVENGE 20/12. Office remains on shore at Halifax. During passage of T.C.2 messages for R.A.3 to be sent both to Halifax and REVENGE. (Hd. of M., 1429/22).

HOME COMMANDS (continued)

torch swung it as he walked (N.I.D. 8/3)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	N. Variable light	Moderate
	Dogger W-N-W Strong	Good
	S. Variable light	Poor
Horns Reef	W-N-W Strong	Good
Channel	E. Light	Moderate
W. Approaches	E. Moderate	Good
Outlook:-	Freshening S.W. in Orkneys. in Dogger, moderating Horns Reef.	Strong

Enemy Intelligence

JAEGERSBORG — Not yet reported at Leith. Owners state in newspapers she is lost. (N.A. Copenhagen 1835/22) See also 19/12

SNAPPER hunted — Hunted by craft believed to be one destroyer HTLZ2530 from 0300 to 0550. Undamaged (SNAPPER 0707/22)

Fishing off Horns Reef — German patrol states fishing is now safe to 25 miles west chartered position Horn or Horn Reef light vessel. (Consul, Esbjerg, 2145/22)

Destroyer off Christiansand — A destroyer numbered 32 (probably F.I.H.N.) reported off Christiansand at 1500 22/12 (O.I.C. 0308/39)

Norwegian Islands as possible German objectives — In past two years Germans have paid particular attention to island Notters Tjomo south of Tonsberg at entrance to Oslo Fjord. Norwegian defence staff consider that if Germany invades Norway their first object will be to seize these islands (Oslo 1530/22)

SCHEER — Indications, not definitely confirmed, that ADMIRAL SCHEER may have left Germany about 14/12 for a long cruise (D.O.D. (F) 2011/22)

HOME COMMANDS (continued)

H.M.S: SALMON Awards — Honours and promotions to officers and men of H.M. submarine SALMON (Lieut.Com. E. O. Bickford) announced for "a brilliantwar patrol in which she succeeded in totally destroying an enemy submarine and torpedoing at least one enemy cruiser". (Press notice)

Norwegian Escorts — Norwegian S.N.O. at Tromsoe states that all merchant ships especially belligerents using inner lead are now, on request and when possible, escorted by Norwegian warships when passing area of Vesteraalen Fjord, Falda, Stad. No escort system yet in force Finmark coast but on enquiry informed that this will probably be instituted as and when daylight hours increase. (Tromsoe 1845/22)

Private information (source, Commander of Norwegian patrol vessel) that Germans have undertaken to stop sinking ships in Norwegian pilotage waters and subsequently pilots are again sailing in German ships. (Narvik 1957/22)

Submarine sanctuaries — Present sanctuaries in force (D.O.D.(H) 2350/22)

S/m's positions — 0700/23 (D.C. 1921/22)

French movements — Movements of French ships (C-in-C W.A. 1313, 1426, 1956/22)

9th D.F. — to be formed of 6 ex-Brazilian destroyers now building (D.O.D. (H) 2016/22)

Free bombing area — Arrangements to come into force 23/12. Our a/c's will normally attack surface warships on sight in whole North Sea between Lat. 59°N and 53°N east of a line joining points 59°N, 1°E, 57°N 56°N 01°W, 54°N 01°E, 53°N 3°E. Outside this area a/c's may only attack ships definitely identified as enemy. C-in-C H.F. Rosyth and Nore to inform Adty. whenever H.M. ships enter the area. (C-in-C H.F. 2359/22)

Suspicious fishing vessels — 7 unknown fishing vessels reported by a/c as acting suspiciously, grouped close together, not fishing. Fitted with aerials. Spread into V formation when they sighted a/c and proceeded northwards. Position 57° 14'N 5° 31'E. Later considered that circumstances can be attributed to normal causes. Masters were probably in conference and spread on observing a/c. Chief Inspector of Fisheries endorses this view. (N.I.D. 8/3)

Flashing light — A/c on patrol reported flashing light on cliff in Conden Bay near Peterhead. Man seen walking about. Pilot stated Morse code was used. Investigated by N.O. I/C Aberdeen and Inspector H.M. coastguard, who were satisfied that there was nothing suspicious. Presumably man with

War Diary.

22.12.1939,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Local Defences, Northern Ports. Position of controlled minelaying and boom defences at Port A and Scapa, and desirability of Fleet getting to Scapa at first possible moment. No practices are now being carried out by the Fleet. Recommend Scapa defences receive priority over Port A. (C. in C., H.F., 1831/22)

A/A Cruisers. When NELSON leaves Port A, request to sail CAIRO, CALCUTTA And CURLEW for the Nore. (D.O.D. (H), 1147/20).

War Diary

22.12.39.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

REPULSE and BARHAM with 4 destroyers to northward, covering Convoys HN5 and NK2. EDINBURGH and SOUTHAMPTON acting as close cover to these convoys.

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes 2 cruisers
" Faroes and Iceland 1 cruiser 5 A.M.C's.
In Denmark Strait 2 cruisers 1 A.M.C.
One further cruiser and 2 A.M.C.'s on passage to complete the patrol line between Faroes and Iceland, due to reach their stations 23/12

Ocean Convoys & Escorts

Owing to other commitments it will not be possible to provide Home Fleet destroyers (leaving of O.N.6.) before January 2nd. Date is still uncertain. (C-in-C H.F. 2231/22)
Sailing of RESOLUTION for Halifax postponed until 0900/23 to enable a destroyer escort to be provided.
Convoy T.C.2 sailed 1300/22. Owing to the slow maximum speed of S.S. ALMANZORA the speed of advance will be 13½ knots and not 15 as scheduled.

As regards ships in F.S. convoy (Admiralty 2330/21) the only N.C.O's who know the dispersal point of an ocean convoy are (1) Thames, (2) the final port of departure, which in this case would be Portsmouth. It is therefore suggested that Portsmouth be ordered to provide the ocean route for the present (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1021/22)

Convoy H.N.3 fell into confusion on being ordered to alter course 055° to Port to 210° true when near Shetlands. Masters did not know whether this should have been a wheel, whether to turn together and gradually form astern of next ahead, or to endeavour to keep formation in quarter line. Request correct procedure so it may be explained to Masters at future conferences. (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1230/22)

Thames Minefield

Further laying of the shallow minefield off the Thames (G.F.8.) took place.

Enemy air activity

1139 one enemy a/c over Gregness (near Aberdeen) on Westerly course height about 15000 feet.
1155 indecisive fight between a Junkers 88 and one of our Hudsons in 55° 35'N 1° 50'E. The enemy a/c was very effectively camouflaged. At 1015 two enemy a/c's were located 50 miles E of May I. A section of fighters engaged enemy, who escaped in low cloud.

Low visibility and fog in Southern North Sea and Channel.

War Diary.

23. 12. 39.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked.

PANDORA 1330 PANDORA (ex H.M.S. DOLPHIN) 5670 tons, mined 1 mile to eastward of Blyth Pier while being towed by tugs for breaking up. Sank rapidly, but crew of 7 rescued. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1346, 1517/23 etc.). Position of wreck 131° Blyth East Pier, 12.6 cables (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1138/24).

S/m's Reported

1152 Conning tower of U-boat sighted by aircraft in 56° 20' N. 2° 26' E., course 270° (C. in C. Rosyth, 1550/23).
Indefinite report of considerable number of enemy submarines proceeding south westward off Dutch coast 23/12. French authorities sending up aircraft patrol daylight 24/12. Six French destroyers at Dunkirk short notice. (C. in C. Nore, 0018/24, D.C. 2318/23).

S/m's. attacked

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

KLIO — The KLIO, 1409 tons, with a cargo of conserve for Amsterdam, is reported to be about to leave Bilbao, where she has been since Nov. 23.

BARENFELS) TREUENFELS) — These two ships and one more, probably GOLDENFELS, left Narvik loaded with ore at 0030, 0130 and 0230 respectively. (I.C.,0308/39. There are now no German ships at Narvik.

South Atlantic.

SAO PAULO — German steamer of 4751 tons reported to be leaving Maccio, south of Pernambuco, for Norway, flying Greek flag. Thought this may be the SAO PAULO, (O.I.C., 23/12).

China.

LINDENFELS WASCENWALD WERDENFELS — Reference the sequestration of these vessels at Sabang on behalf of Asiatic Petroleum Company, it is now reported that the Dutch authorities have removed certain essential parts of their machinery. (O.I.C.,23/12).

General. — Reliably reported all German ships, China, acute shortage bunkers and provisions. Unlikely to move. Dutch East Indies, 21st Dec., all German ships attached except MONI RICKMERS, RHEINFELS, SCHURBEK and SPECIA. (Capt. on Staff, H.M.S. TERROR, 0532Z/23)..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

AJAX, EXETER, Return. My 1750/18 and 1303/22 (repair of AJAX and EXETER in U. K. When arranging homeward passage request you will also consider arranging for AJAX to visit Rio de Janeiro. (D.O.D. (F), 1028/23).

America and West Indies.

Ocean Convoy Escorts. Your 1354/18 and Admiralty 2105/30. Admiralty policy re battleship escort for convoys. Observations on programme for VALIANT, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, REVENGE, and RESOLUTION. (D.O.D.(F), 1841/23, to R.A.3). Revised forecast should be made as soon as expected dates of arrival of ROYAL SOVEREIGN and VALIANT at Halifax are known (C. in C., A.W.I., 1621/24). Explanation of programme for REVENGE, etc., (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1637/24).

Australia.

Troop Convoy Escort. My o331Z/16. Objection to Australian cruiser composing escort beyond Fremantle. Assume that arrangements in Admiralty message 1407/14 hold good. CANBERRA will join escort from New Zealand. (First Naval Member, Melbourne, 0221Z/23).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.).

Durban Arrivals.	Aircraft carrier EAGLE and cruisers GLOUCESTER and CORNWALL have arrived at Durban. (Reuter message).
ACHILLES	Cancel movement of ACHILLES ordered in my 2029/10 (D.O.D.(F) 1512/23).
CORNWALL) SUSSEX)	To exchange stations. (D.C.N.S.1236/23). See also East Indies.
CUMBERLAND) SUSSEX)	CUMBERLAND to proceed to Simonstown as soon as possible to refit and join SUSSEX as Force H. SHARPSHOOTER concentrate with DORSETSHIRE forthwith if you consider necessary, but as SCHEER could not reach Falkland Is. before 1/1/40 there should be time for SHROPSHIRE to look after WINDHUK at Rio de Janeiro before concentrating, if WINDHUK should sail during next few days. (C-in-C S.A. 1227/23).

America and West Indies.

German Agent.	N.C.S.O., Curacao states agent for Norwegian ship and British Blue Star Line is an Austro-German (S.O.(I)., Kingston, Jamaica, 2130/23).
U.S. Movements	U.S. warship movements and of Danish training ship DANMARK (St. Thomas, 0855/23). Re broadcasting movements of U.S. S/M's in waters near Panama Canal in order to obviate dangerous incidents between them and defensively armed British merchant vessels (Minister, Panama 1845F/23).
ORION	To remain on the station. PERTH to proceed to E.I. station on arrival of first "D" class (D.O.D(F) 1524/23).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Boarding Vessels. KHEDIVE ISMAIL and MOHAMED ALI EL-KEBIR considered too large and expensive for armed boarding vessels. Suggest use as transports inside Mediterranean only. (C-in-C., Med., 1156/23).

Motor Cruiser. Purchase of motor cruiser BLUEJACKET (Consul-Gen., Marseilles, 1216/23).

East Indies.

Movements. French cruiser SUFFREN and H.M.C. CATHAY left Trincomalee (N.O.I.C., Trincomalee, 1330Z/23). Orders for CORNWALL, proceed to Simonstown with all despatch, transfer flag of C.S.5 to SUSSEX, later to proceed to Colombo. GLOUCESTER and EAGLE continue as ordered in C.S. 5's 1103/19 (C-in-C EI 1744Z/23).

China.

Direction finding. Question of high frequency direction finding (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0615Z/23).

French Ships. Departures of French ships (S.O.(I), Singapore, 0801/23).

Neutral ships. Movements of U.S. Dutch and Chinese Warships (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0446Z/23). Movements of Japanese warships (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0254Z/23).

Use of Russian S/M's. Intercepted letter from Wallen and Co., Hong Kong, addressed Capt. C.E. Bertan, c/o Harding and Co., Calcutta, states: "China Sea will soon be less peaceful than (corrupt group) as it is reported that Germany is taking over a large part of the Russian submarines in Vladivostok. . . Report comes from Rome. It was stated that German officers and men for submarines had already left by Siberian train to take over submarines". (S.O.(I), Bombay, 0730/23).

North Atlantic.

Contraband Control. Report requested as to detention at Gibraltar 11 - 12 November, of Spanish S.S. CABO SACRATIF. (M. Branch, 1947/23).

South Atlantic.

Foreign relations. Possibility of shortly inducing Uruquay to grant us greater benevolence of neutrality. Guidance as asked for should Argentina or Uruquay propose to break of diplomatic relations or even declare war. (N.A., Buenos Aires, 1910/23).

War Diary.

23.12.39.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Composition of Detached Forces.

Re 1210/31/10/39. Composition to be amended as follows:-

Force	
G	SHROPSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE.
H	CORNWALL to be joined later by CUMBERLAND.
I	SUSSEX, GLOUCESTER, EAGLE.
K	ARK ROYAL, RENOWN.
M	SUFFREN, KENT.
X	First Division of French 8-inch cruisers.

Cancel references to Forces J, L and Y. (D.O.D. (F) 1853/23).

This allocation of Force letters revised. D.O.D. (F) 1354/13/2/1940

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.).

WEATHER.

0400		Wind	Visibility.
North Sea	North Area	Gale	Good.
	South "	Light, variable	Poor
Horns Reef		W. Fresh	Good
Channel		Light, variable	Poor
W.Approaches		E. Moderate	Moderate.

Outlook Strong winds continuing in North, elsewhere little change.

Enemy Intelligence.

Transports at Hamburg. Norwegian Christiansund Times have received information at various dates of ships fitted as transports at Hamburg and concentration of troops in vicinity. Force understood to be for invasion south Sweden if occasion arises. (Oslo, 1500/23).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Defence of Southampton, and Portsmouth. Balloons to protect Southampton Water from enemy minelaying a/c's. (Air Min.1540/25).

East Coast Channel. All Allied and Neutral Governments notified that as Germany has laid automatic moored mines without notice in the North Sea outside territorial waters off the British Coast Admiralty intend to lay mines for the better protection of vessels navigating in the North Sea off the East Coast of England and Scotland. Mines will be laid without further notice in the areas defined below.

Area 1. Bounded by lines joining the following positions:-
57°55'N. 1° 5'W., 56°40'N, 2°3'W., 56°10'N, 2°3'W., 55°45'N, 1°20'W., 55°00'N, 0°45'W, 55°12'N, 0°00', 55°45'N, 0°27'W., 56°10'N, 1°9'W., 56°40'N, 109'W., 57°55'N, 0°9'W.

Area 2. Bounded by lines joining the following positions:- (This area is an extension of an area previously announced).
55°00'N., 0°45'W., 53°50'N., 0°42'E., 53°50'N., 1°51'E., 55°12'N., 0°00'.

Area 3. Bounded by lines joining the following positions:-
53°50'N., 0°42'E., 53°00'N., 2°35'E., 51°59'36"N., 2°13'E., 51°58'48"N. 2°35'E., 53°00'N, 3°16'E., 53°50'N 1°51'E.

Vessels navigating between ports on the East Coast of England and Scotland and ports on the Eastern shores of the North Sea must either (1) Pass to the north of positions (a) 58°2P'N,1°00'E., (b) 58°20'N, 1°20'W., and proceed between Rattray Head and the mined area declared herein: or (2) Pass to the south of positions (a) 51°43'N, 2°32'E, and (b) 51°36'N, 2°6'42" E, and, if approaching England, proceed to the Downs for orders in accordance with instructions given in Admiralty Notice to Mariners No.2775. Passage through the mined area described herein is dangerous and vessels disobeying these instructions will do so at their peril. (Adty., 2145/23).

The object of these minefields was to safeguard shipping against enemy minelaying and to exercise firmer control over shipping with the object of preventing laying of mines by enemy ships disguised as neutrals. Any ship passing through the declared area to be intercepted and sent into port for examination. Enemy attack by S/M's and minefields at either end of the East coast channel may be anticipated. Patrols should be arranged as far as possible to prevent this and regular search for mines must be carried out in these localities. Any tendency to regard the declared area as firm obstacle to the enemy must be resisted. A/S measures and search for mines in the coastal channels and approaches to ports must continue unabated. Certain secret searched channels through the area will be established and promulgated, and our own warships should normally use these channels. (Hd. of M. 2146/23).

War Diary.

23. 12. 1939,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS+

Northern Patrol.

Considered possible next move by the enemy may be attacks on the Northern Patrol. Decided cruiser strength of the Home Fleet must be increased by withdrawals from foreign stations. (D.O.D.(F), 1456/23). Intended that on completion of this withdrawal, Home Fleet cruiser force shall consist of 19 ships (list follows). (D.O.D. (F), 1621/24).

Home Fleet Cruisers.

Murmansk Patrol.

Reports received that a Russian expedition is being prepared at Murmansk with object of effecting a landing at Narvik. Remarks requested as to feasibility of sending a submarine to operate off the Kola Inlet to investigate report and maintain a patrol if such expedition sails. (D.O.D., to R.A.(S), 1838/23).
"T" class submarine could arrive Kola inlet in about six days and remain on patrol 16 days. Period on patrol might be exceeded slightly in an emergency. Better alternative might be to land agents from submarine to carry out reconnaissance. (R.A. (S), 2339/23). (see 24/12)

War Diary.

23.12.39.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. At 22/12.
At 0800/23 Convoy H.N.5 was East of Duncansby Head and N.K.2 off the Orkneys.

Convoy Escorts. Cover for D.H.N.6 (conveying arms to Finland, due to leave Methil 28/12) will be provided by H.M.S. EDINBURGH and H.M.S. GLASGOW, H.M.S. HOOD will be at sea in support. As regards destroyer escort, I will do all I can. (C-in-C., H.F. 1827/23).

Enemy Air Activity. Very little, probably owing to foggy conditions on East Coast. At 1100 Fighter Command reported a raid in vicinity of Spurn Point, which may have been a minelaying raid (D.C.N.S. 24/12).

Aircraft Attack areas. Cancel my 2359/22 (C-in-C. H.F. 1037/23).

Delayed contact mines. Enemy are laying contact moored mines with delayed release from the sinker up to three days. (D.M.S., 2033/23).

Blyth closed. Blyth is at present closed to shipping (D.C.N.S.)., (see PANDORA mined).

Convoys. Positions of convoys and of various A.M.C.'s etc., (D.C., 1913/23 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

French positions. 1200/24 (D.C. 0212/24) 1200/23 (D.C.0555/23).

Ships from Narvik. Until further orders vessels bound between Narvik and U.K. ports are to be routed and sailed independently keeping well clear of Norwegian coast. They should arrive at, and leave the entrance to, Vestfjorden during darkness. (D.T.D., 1343/23).

Submarine Positions. Positions of Submarines (D.C., 1810 and 2241/23, 1810/23).

S/M patrol zones. Normal patrol not to be maintained in Zone B at present. 2 S/M's to be maintained in Zone E. In emergency S/M's can be sent through German declared area; consideration being given to using this route to Zone B (R.A.(S) 1035/23).

Defence of Shetlands. Deputy Chiefs of Staff have endorsed conclusions of A.C.O.S. (A.A.) Sub-Committee on defence of Shetlands taken at second meeting. Recommendations were (a) that 8 A.A. guns and 4 light A.A. guns should be allocated to Shetlands for protection of R.A.F. seaplane base and naval anchorage at Sullum Voe; (b) that 4 of the above-mentioned A.A. guns HX should be despatched forthwith. In respect of (b), 4 guns should be withdrawn at discretion of A.O.C. in C. and despatched. (Air Ministry,1558/23).

Boarding of Ships. Reference Naval Prize Manual, article 96, paragraph 1, only fact of having visited the ship, together with the officer's signature and rank, are to be entered in her log. Essential that no mention be made of instructions to or undertakings or guarantees by Master. (D.E.W.D., Appd.by A.C.N.S. 1216/23).

War Diary.

24. 12. 39.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

S/m's Reported

1630 D.F. unknown enemy unit, 55° 35' N., 03° 50' E., unreliable fix, probably surface vessel. (D.N.I. 1702/24).

1945 Master of EDENWOOD reports he heard noise of motor possibly submarine, 4 miles E.N.E. of Owers light vessel in dense fog. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1452/25).

2345 Trawler CAPETOWN unarmed bound from MILFORD HAVEN for Portsmouth, reported s/m on the surface about 2 miles W.S.W. from Owers light vessel (I.C.0310/39). Dived on sighting trawler. (W.N.W. ?)

1442 D.F. unknown enemy unit 55° 05' N. 03° 10' E. reliable fix. Reporting British aircraft. (D.N.I. 1512/24).

North Atlantic

Improbable there are any s/m's. in the Atlantic. Positions between the Azores and Spain at 1125/20 and 1141/22 are no longer considered reliable (O.I.C. 0308/39).

Norwegian ship SONGA reports being stopped for examination by large German submarine in position 34°00 N., 21° 00 W. P.M. 24/12. (N.C.S.O. Las Palmas 1345/26. F.O.C.N.A. 1816/26) Requesting further details of s/m's nationality (D.N.I.2045/26).

South Atlantic

French Naval Attache, Rio de Janeiro, states German submarine sighted by pilot of Air France aircraft 26° 40' S., 047° 30' W., steering S.W. Has been asked reliability of informant. (Buenos Aires 1550/24). (A.N.A. Rio, 1619/26).

S/m's. attacked.

1540 A/S trawler KIRKELLA made an attack off Ilfracombe, near where the attacks were made by three A/S trawlers at and after 1030 on Nov. 21. (D.S.) (N.O.I.C., Swansea 1809/24). (I.C. 0309/39).

52° 16' N., 1° 52' E. and 52° 25' N., 1° 52' E. by GREYHOUND and GRENVILLE. Both considered non-sub. (Capt. D.(1) 1340/26, 1620/26).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS
(Contd.)

China
(Contd.)

German refugee ships are being moved from main harbour to 3 outlying buoys, rendering collection of information re movements more difficult. (Consul Wellenstad 0900/24).

HAVELLAND — Consul-General, Mexico, reports from local press, HAVELLAND left 24/12, believed to have loaded 3,000 tons oil fuel and a supply of lubricating oil. (I.C.0311/39).

War Diary

24. 12. 39.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

FALKENFELS
TRAUENFELS
ROTHENFELS

Due to arrive Leningrad about 24/12. Moscow advises Berlin that owing to difficulties of freighting a certain latitude in the time of arrival can be allowed these ships, but they must not be later than Dec. 24 as after this date no more steamers can be accepted. (M.C. 3. Postal & Telegraph Censorship 24/12).

Convoy in Great Belt.

No German merchant ships reported to have passed through Great Belt Northwards at about 1800 - 24/12. (I.C. 0310/39).

ARUCAS

Consul at Vigo reports indications that this ship and possibly other Germans may sail within next 48 hours. (I.C. 0308/39)

KLIO

1409 tons. Bilbao report states this ship is expected to sail at any moment. Cargo includes 68 tons of conserve for Amsterdam. (I.C. 0308/39).

North Atlantic

GEDANIA

8923 tons, arrived Las Palmas from Bissagos Islands, Portuguese Guinea, in ballast. (A.C.S.O., Las Palmas 1000/24). Sailed from Teneriffe (D.N.I. 1522/24, F.O.C.N.A. 2355/25).

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE

D.I.R. 53 secret source reports unusual activity aboard German ship RIO GRANDE at Rio Grande Do Sul. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1914/24).

WINDHUK

Santos report, WINDHUK has bunkered 1200 tons of oil fuel, and arrangements made to bunker 150 tons of Diesel oil. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1615/24). An embargo has been obtained by Lamport and Holt, representing the British owned cargo. (I.C., 0311/39).

China.

BURGENLAND
MUNSTERLAND
SCHARNHORST

Potential A.M.C's, China, Kobe. BURGENLAND loading sand. MUNSTERLAND due dry dock 24th Dec. SCHARNHORST officers and crew reduced to care and maintenance complement. (Capt. on Staff, TERROR, Singapore, 9334Z/24).

STASSFURT

Press report states STASSFURT sequestered at Tjilatjap, Java. (D.N.I. 1900/24). (IC.0309/39)

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

America and West Indies.

U.S. Patrol Withdrawn.

Their Lordships agree that hovering off neutral ports just outside three-mile limit is not breach of international law, but they think that out of consideration for American opinion this patrol should now be withdrawn.
Information available does not confirm statement that Americans, while neutral in last war, prevented escape of German merchant ships on condition of withdrawal of our patrols, except for short intervals during Americal fleet manoeuvres. Americans protested frequently against our hovering patrols in the last war. (Head of M., to C. in C.A.W.I., 1557/24).

U.S.A. S/m's movements.

Re informing N.C.S.O.'s and broadcasting warning to British shipping when information received of movements of U.S. s/m's. or areas in which they will exercise.

Allied s/m's Broadcasting Information.

Possibility of Allied s/m's operating near Panama is considered remote. Therefore if broadcasts are confined to U.S.A. and belligerent s/ms. and do not include surface vessels it would be to our advantage. Greatly appreciate that Navy Dept. Washington, has hitherto kept secret movements of British warships, e.g. information of CARADOC's impending arrival at San Diago was withheld even from local naval authorities (C. in C.A.W.I. 2330/25). There can be no question of our consenting to broadcasting of movements of British warships on high seas. N.C.S.O. Panama should represent this. (Hd. of M. 1248/29).

North Atlantic.

French Convoy

French DRAGUEUR ELAN escorting French convoy passed Gibraltar East to West, 1000. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1136/24).

South Atlantic

German Supplies

Neutral in contact with German commerce and shipping states Germans at Rio are buying no commodities other than oil fuel, all their alleged convoy plan having been wrecked by failure of GRAF SPEE. They await fresh orders from Germany. Repeatedly declared in German circles that oil fuel is intended for ADMIRAL SCHEER or other warship on the way. Very high Nazi received telegram 21st Dec. from Berlin quoted "German goods for S. America now on the way in S. Atlantic." (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1144/24).

China

Patrol Vessels.

Condition of auxiliary patrol vessels at Hong Kong, and suggestion to requisition Chinese Maritime Customs cruisers. If this undesirable from political aspect, six vessels at Shanghai suitable for this service. (C.in C., China 0314Z/24)

Japanese Movements

CHOKAI has relieved MYOKO as flagship. C. in C. S.Atlantic force. Other Japanese movements (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 0336Z/24).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

Enemy Intelligence

Anticipated Coast Raid.

Secret source indicates possibility of a raid by German heavy ships on East Coast during Christmas week. As a precautionary measure two additional submarines are taking up patrol to North and West of German declared minefield. (D.C.N.S.)

Reported that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU and possibly DEUTSCHLAND are ready for sea and crews have not had Christmas leave. D.N.I.'s assessment B.2. Seamen ashore say they are expecting orders for an attack on East Coast of England during Christmas week. D.N.I.'s assessment D.3. (D.O.D.(H) 1240/24).

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU last reported at Wilhelmshaven, and DEUTSCHLAND at Kiel. (D.N.I. 0030/25).

Possibility of East Coast raid, Admiralty request reconnaissance Wilhelmshaven to establish if two enemy battle cruisers are present. With this object high altitude photographic reconnaissance should be carried out 24/12 if weather permits. (Air Ministry to Bomber Command 2350/23).

German High Command communique: While there was no activity of the German Air Force on Dec. 24, British planes flew over the Heligoland Bight in the hours of the afternoon. (Deutschlandsender, 1300, 25/12).

HOME COMMANDS (Continued)

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War Diary.

24. 12. 1939.
Sunday.

Enemy Intelligence.

Murmansk S/M Patrol.

Submarine to be prepared for this service (see 23/12). Landing of an agent at Murmansk not considered practicable. (D.C.N.S.,1425/24). Patrol for the present to be carried on outside territorial waters. Object to ascertain if such a patrol is capable of detecting sailing of an expedition by day or night. (D.O.D.(H),1315/25).

War Diary

24. 12. 39.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd).

Arctic Ports — Request confirmation that Russian Arctic ports are still not to be treated as adjacent neutral territory. (V.A.N.P. 1244/24).

Paravanes for merchant ships — Fitting of paravanes to merchant ships is recommended and over 1,000 British merchant ships are to be so fitted. Paravanes are not effective against magnetic mines, nor completely so against German moored mines which may explode when mooring severed. (M., to N.A. Oslo 2050/24).

Norwegian Patrols — N.A. Oslo reported Norwegian surface and air patrols are being reinforced on Narvik traffic route. Orders have been given to these forces to attack all s/m's. observed submerged in Norwegian territorial waters (Hd. of M. 2107/24).

Suspicious ship. — More details of suspicious ship sighted by INGA 57° 15' N. 5° 48' E. (? on 22/12) (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/24).

JAEGERSBORG — Feared lost, (B.U.P. from Copenhagen 22/12). Left Copenhagen for Leith 14/12 (N.O.i/c Leith 1910/22). Suggest captured by Germans (D.N.I. 1715/23).
Admiralty 1238/24. Extract German Press this forenoon. Copenhagen. Believed here Sunday Morn that trace being found of 1975 ton Steamer JAEGERSBORG which missing since Dec. 14th. Another Danish Steamer picked up North Sea raft with sailor bound to it. Construction raft well as provisions found on raft are of Danish origin so that it believed that sailor one of 19 victims JAEGERSBORG catastrophe. Sailor who apparently frozen to death was taken to Danish port. (Greenwich S.O./416/24).
Information urgently required (D.T.D.1238/24).
(No suspicion as to bona-fides of actual vessel, but there is a remote possibility that suspicious vessel reported as JAEGERSBORG was a German disguised as her. Copy of photo from a/c was sent to Agents at Leith for identification or otherwise, and they stated quite definitely that it is one of JAEGERSBORG.

WEATHER.

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea N. Area ..	Strong, westerly	Moderate
S. Area ..	Light, westerly	Thick fog
Horns Reef	Moderate, westerly ..	Fair
Channel	Light variable	Fog
Western Approaches ..	E., light to moderate.	Moderate

Outlook:- Little change.

War Diary

24. 12. 39.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet

REPULSE, BARHAM and 5 destroyers to northwards of Shetlands. NELSON instructed by C. in C.H.F. (2231/23) not to leave Port A. until further orders. Two magnetic mines were destroyed by towed drifters outside the channel at Port A. yesterday. (23/12).

Northern Patrol

Between Orkneys and Faroes - 2 cruisers.
" Faroes " Iceland - 2 " 7 A.M.C's.
In Denmark Strait ... ... 1 " 1 "

Convoys

Position of Convoys and escorts (C. in C.W.A. 1301/24).
Norwegian Convoy HN.5 has split, 5 ships to West coast ports and 26, with four destroyers, are off Aberdeen.
Narvik convoy, escorted by three destroyers, expected to arrive Methil at noon 24/12.
Considerable volume of traffic fog bound (D.C. 0812/24)
ON.6 to leave Methil at 1000 28/12, and HN. 6 to leave Point G. at 1400 31/12. Covering force EDINBURGH and GLASGOW. HOOD in support.
Submarine detached by R.A.(S) (C.in C.Rosyth 1238/24)

Enemy Air Activity

Nil.

Air Reconnaissance

At 14.25, off Horns Reef, 55° 53' N., 6° 11' E., two small merchant vessels or trawlers fired at British reconnaissance bombers with pom poms. Nine bombs were dropped without result. (D.C.N.S. and I.C. 0309/39).
Moonlight patrols were flown, night of 24-25/12, between May Island and Holy Island, and Thornaby and Whitby. (D.C.N.S.) Merchant vessels sighted in air searches today 'C.in C.Rosyth 2350/24).

East Coast Minefield

In order to exercise a firmer control over shipping on East Coast, a minefield has been declared approximately 15 miles off the coast reaching from 57° 55' (26 miles north of Buchan Ness) to the latitude of Harwich. (D.C.N.S.)

S/m's positions.

0700/25 (D.C. 1952/24, 0123/24).

Asdic sets.

Shortage. Immediate requirements in U.K. cannot be met. Desired to re-allocate to Adty. some of sets under manufacture to order of Govt. of India. (Hd. of M. 1315/24). Establishment of mined area will probably lead to enemy minelaying near N.W. corner of area; immediate steps to be taken to safeguard shipping approaching Buchan Ness and in Moray Firth. Requirements - details (C. in C. Rosyth 1709/24).

Bell Rock Light

Communication with Bell Rock light has broken down and cannot be re-established before A.M. Wednesday 27/12. Light cannot therefore be exhibited until then. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1615/24). Re-established (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/27).

War :Diary.

25.12.39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING (Cont.).

S/Ms. Reported (Cont.)

1210. 53.10 N., 0.46 E.; Off Skegness. Sighted by two aircraft course W. (I.C. 0310/39) (Bomber Command 1915/25).

1422 57.36 N., 1.34 E., reported by FLAMINGO (I.C. 0310/39).

S/Ms. Attacked.

1422 FLAMINGO carried out 2 attacks on contact in position 214 ZKAA 18 (mouth of Thames, Knock Deep; no results. Trawler 195 in vicinity. (FLAMINGO 1422/25).

1505 VALOROUS attacked contact in a position 050° vi nd 6 and lost contact. Two A/S trawlers searching the vicinity. VALOROUS rejoined convoy (VALOROUS 1505/25).

War Diary. 25.12.39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN and MINING.

Ships Attacked.

STANHOLME sunk. 0745. British STANHOLME, 2473 tons, sunk 4 miles south of Nash Point, S.Wales. Explosion at first ascribed to torpedo, later attributed to mine. (I.C. 0310/39). Cargo, 4,500 tons of coal. Master and 10 others, including one woman, wife of Chief Engineer, landed at Barry; 13 missing. After interrogation of Master and survivors consider that submarine was not sighted and that cause of explosion was mine. (F.O.I.C.,Cardiff, 1739/25).

LAPPEN sunk.

Now considered barratry. Norwegian, 563 tons, struck a mine about 10 miles W. of Bergen while bound from Oslo to Tyne with cargo of paper pulp. Crew of 13 landed at Bergen. (Reuter, Oslo). Asking details and position. (D.N.I. 1551/28) 59°53'30"N. 4°44'36"E. Not known whether mine or torpedo, believed latter (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1300/29)

DIXCOVE. chased. 1819. British tanker, 8,790 tons, reported chased by S/M 300 miles south of Azores (Times 27/12) Lands End Radio 1820/25 gave position 30.57 N . 25.30 W., and again at 1837/25 as 30.45 N., 25.24 W. Latter was repeated to H.M.S.WELLINGTON at 1905/25 by F.O.C.N.A. Further reports indicate submarine is probably French. (F.O.C.N.A.2157/25). S/M was French.

LOCH DOON presumed lost. Auxiliary A/S vessel (584 tons). See Home Commands.

S/Ms. Reported.

1030 Periscope sighted by aircraft close to Spurn Point. VIVIEN, BITTERN and VALOROUS warned. (D.C.N.S.) (see S/Ms. attacked) (C.in C. Nore, 1146/25).

1330 S/M sighted on surface by aircraft off Spurn Point. Dived on approach of aircraft. (D.C.N.S.) (C.in C., Nore, 1547/25) (Bomber Command, 1915/25).

2100 Trawler FAIRVIEW reported S/M about 12 miles S.E. from St. Abbs Head (I.C. 0310/39) Without lights heading W. apparently submerging. (C.in C.Rosyth 0332 and 0923/26).

1930 57,36 N., 1.35 W., off Rattray Head. ECHO and ELECTRA hunting(I.C.0310/39) (C.in C. Rosyth 2008 and 2046/25)

War Diary.

25.12.39.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

Great Belt. Report received that 20 German merchant vessels, total about 80,000 tons, passed through the Great Belt early morning 25/12. Assessment B.2. (D.C. 2340/25). Reported passing north off Anholtt at 1000, 25/12 (I.C. 0310/39)

JOHANN SCHULTE. Reported to have arrived Narvick 25/12 (I.C.0310/39).

America and West Indies.

DUSSELDORF (ex-German) Rejecting a protest from German Consul, Panama, Maj. Gen. Stone, U.S. Commander, Canal Zone, gave a clearance to DUSSELDORF, in charge of prize crew, which had come through Canal en route to Jamaica. ("Times", 27/12). Entered Canal 25/12, first prize ever to come through with a prize crew.

PAULINE FRIEDRICH. French report states that this vessel now at Boston, Mass., will endeavour to sail about 25/12. Cargo is 5630 tons Paratex oil and 490 tons Neutral oil (I.C., 0308/39).

HAVELLAND. Reported left Manzanillo 24/12. "Receiving ship". Believed loaded 3000 tons oil fuel and supply of lubricating oil (C.in C. A. & W.I. 2143/25). Cancel. Report erroneous (C.in C. A. & W.I. 1359/28).

Mediterranean.

YALOVA, ARKADIA } were at Constantinople 21/12 (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1006/25).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Vescar System. Approval has now been given to the extension to Japanese ports only, of full Vescar system. (Head of M., 1348/25).

North Atlantic.

Ocean Convoys. Until two ocean escorts can be provided for each H.G.F. and O.G.F. convoy, it is requested that destroyers of 13th D.F. will escort and meet each convoy as far North as practicable. (D.O.D. (H), to F.O.C.N.A. 2301/25). Will be done (F.O.C.N.A. 1710/26).

Positions. Convoys and Escorts (D.C. 1850/25) do. and patrol vessels (D.C. 0054/25).

South Atlantic.

Positions. Convoys and Escorts. Force K., NEPTUNE, SEVERN for Freetown etc. (D.C. 1859/25).

Local strategy. Likelihood that pocket battleship may try to regain German prestige by attacking a light unit such as 6 inch cruiser or A.M.C. Best chance of catching next one is to keep Force G. in close support of one A.M.C. in focal areas or any single 6 inch cruiser that visits neutral port. Suggest only one A.M.C. operate at present in focal areas and second remain in distant diverted route area. Cannot discount possibility of Germans sending one or more S/ms. EXETER at Falkland Is. is possible target. Might send SEVERN or CLYDE to cover her. Above policy would need reversal if merchant raider starts. (R.A. S.A.D. 1602/25).

Mediterranean.

Boarding Vessels, Aden. Employment of armed boarding vessels in view of reduced function of Aden Contraband Control base. Proposal to retain one at Port Said where additional small craft are urgently needed. (C.in C., Med., 1821/25).

GERMAN ...

War Diary. 25.12.39.
Monday.

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

Leningrad Closed. At 1032, 25/12, RUGEN broadcast to all German ships; "Navigation to Leningrad officially closed."

The Finnish armoured ships VAINAMOINEN and ILMARINEN were attacked by Russian a/cs. on or about 25/12. A few casualties. Four enemy planes brough down. (These ships were probably escorting Finnish convoys between Abo and Stockholm by devious routes.)

HOME COMMANDS (Cont.)

LOCH DOON lost.

Auxiliary A/S vessel LOCH DOON (534 tons) reported 0745 she had sighted floating mine 8 miles E. of Blyth and was proceeding to explode it. No further news was received. F.O., Tyne, considers ship must be regarded as total loss (F.O. Tyne 2300/26).

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea, N.	N., light.	Moderate.
" " S.	N.W., light.	Moderate to bad
Horns Reef.	W, moderate.	Good.
Channel, E.	Variable, light.	Bad.
" W.	E., moderate.	Moderate.
Western Approaches.	E.,moderate.	Good.

Outlook: Fog lifting slowly, otherwise little change.

GENERAL.

Assessing enemy intelligence.

Trial system. Known facts to be reported as such. Possibly true reports graded thus:- Reliability of source in 5 classes A. to E. Probability of intelligence being substantiated in 5 classes 1 to 5, using 0 where this cannot be assessed. (D.N.I. 1301/25).

Enemy Intelligence.

BLUCHER

Reported to have been at Hamburg on 18/12. If this is correct, it may mean that she is undergoing repairs. (I.C. 0309/39).

? Transports.

20 German merchant ships passed the Great Belt early 25/12, going North. These may be transports for landing troops in Oslo Fjord or at Kristiansand. THISTLE ordered to entrance to Oslo Fjord, L 23 to neighbourhood of Kristiansand Fjord. To take action if landing attemtped. (N.A. Copenhagen 1900/25, Paris, Murat 2250/25, C.N.S.0155/26) Resume normal patrol (R.A.(S) 2209/26). No further information. Air reconnaissance of Norwegian coast saw nothing. Appears to be insufficient information for WARSPITE to proceed to sea at present (A.C.N.S. 1950/26, C.in C., H.F. 1654/26).

Evident that German aircraft observation vessels are now operating at a considerably further distance from the German bases (I.C.0309/39).

Leningrad ...

War Diary.

25.12.39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ports Closed. Ports of Blyth and Sunderland are closed to shipping following enemy minelaying activities (D.C.N.S.)

Convoys. Ocean convoy positions 2000/25 (C.in C. W.A.1258/25).

Fog has again delayed the departure from Southend of the East Coast convoy. F.N.59. (C.in C.Nore. 0938, 1520/25).

Suspicious tanker. Màster of the CASTLECOMBE reported sighting suspicious tanker, 4 miles off Icart Point, Guernsey, 0100/25 (Officer Customs, Guernsey, 1800/25) (Note. A cable ship was working in this neighbourhood).

S/M's positions. 0700/26 (D.C. 1835/25 as amended by D.C.1935/25).

Tyne closed. Owing to unexplained explosion in South Approach (F.O. i/c Tyne 1555/25).

Aircraft Reconnaissance. Battle Flight, Thornaby, ordered to locate enemy minesweeper reported ZGRA 2144, course 300 deg., speed 7 knots, at 1012/25. Minesweeper not to be attacked on account of shortage of time available for reconnaissance. (Donibristle 1128/25.)

German minesweepers were sighted in a position about 30' N.W. of Horns Reef Light vessel. One aircraft dropped bombs without hitting, and a second flight failed to find the target before they had to return owing to darkness (D.C.N.S.26th)

Various reports of minesweepers located by a/cs. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1825/25, A/C 220 Sqn. 1012/25).

Casualties. At 0225, H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE was in collision with British motor collier EDENWOOD (1167 tons) two miles E.N.E. of the Nab. DERBYSHIRE was not damaged, but the collier was sunk. Crew saved. (D.C.N.S.)

LOCH ...

WAR DIARY. 25. 12. 1939,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Disposition. Proposed organisation and disposition of cruisers and A.M.C.'s in Home Fleet and Northern Patrol, and suggestion to use destroyers on Northern Patrol.

(C.N.S., 2200/25).

Reply: Do not think destroyers could carry out duties for seven months out of twelve (C. in C., H.F., 1943/26).

After full consideration of all relevant factors, it has been decided:--

1. "D" class cruisers to proceed abroad and four of "Arethusa" class replace them in home waters.

"North Sea Force".

2. GALATEA, ARETHUSA, PENELOPE and AURORA to be based on Rosyth under command of V.A. Edward-Collins and to be called "North Sea Force".

3. Destroyers will not be employed on Northern Patrol.

Reference to cruiser organisation as in C. in C., H.F., 1423/30.
Owing to shipping position, decided to take up only 50 A.M.C.'s, about 7 in hand at a time. Therefore propose to allocate 18 instead of 25 to Northern Patrol.

Necessary to retain RENOWN in S. Atlantic.

(1 S.L., 1135/28).

Quiberon Bay. Suggested alternatives to Scapa Flow, Bermuda or Quiberon Bay, advantages of the latter (C.N.S., 2302/25). Welcome opportunity for each capital ship to spend a week's intensive practice at Quiberon Bay. (C. in C., H.F., 1123/26). Suggest Comdr. Mackay proceed Quiberon to investigate facilities (C.S.O., (to B.N.L.O.,Marceau), 1934/26).

War Diary.

25.12.39.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. REPULSE, BARHAM and five destroyers to northwards of Shetlands.
Narvik and Norwegian (H.N.5.) convoys have arrived.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkneys and Faroes, one cruiser.
Between Faroes and Iceland, two cruisers, seven AMC's.
In Denmark Strait, one cruiser, one A.M.C.

Enemy Air Activity. One monoplane was seen over Orkneys at 13.30. Fighters from Wick and Hatston were sent up but did not make contact.

Port A. Proposal that C.in C. H.F. should do without Port A as a base for either capital ships or cruisers. (D.O.D.(H) 1250/25). Port A. will not be used by capital ships and cruisers till method for dealing with magnetic mines can be relied on. To be available for destroyers to refuel in emergency and as operational base for a few ships of 1st or 2nd A/S striking force which are unsuitable for employment in open waters in winter (C.in C. H.F. 1911/25).

Bristol Channel Mines. Mines have been laid in Bristol Channel and a U-Boat was reported night of 25/12 off Cherbourg if correct, probably a minelayer going down Channel (C.C. 0310/39).

Proposed Minefield. Adty. objections to minefield proposed in C.in C. H.F. 2317/21 (.D.O.D.(H) 1747/25)

Submarine off Kirkwall. An obstruction has been located by sweeping with grapnels and the position has been buoyed. Diving operations will be carried out as soon as possible (D.C.N.S.)
Found to be telephone cables (V.A.N.P. 1735/26).

Unexplained Explosion. 51°20'18"N. 3°39'W. (F.O.I/C. Cardiff 1745/25, 1159/26).

Ports ...

War Diary

26. 12. 39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked

ADELLEN mined 1550 British tanker, 8,000 tons, in ballast for Curacao mined 16 miles N.E. of North Foreland 51° 40' N., 1° 49' E. Reported being in no immediate danger and not requiring assistance. Entering Thames tomorrow morning 27th. (I.C., 0311/39, etc.)

TRIUMPH damaged 2306 See Home Commands.

S/m's reported

0440 320° Cherbourg 5'. Reported by French M.S. trawler (I.C. 0310/39).

? 0400 C. in C. Portsmouth 1043/26 to MALCOLM, FOXGLOVE says 0400.

0926 51.42 N. 2.38 E. SSS intercepted. (I.C.0310/39)

1235 3' E. of Dunwich, 52.17 N. 1.46 E. U-boat reported to have surfaced and submerged. (C. in C. Nore 1301/26).

2000 S/m sighted on surface in 49° 46' N., 13°11' W. by VENETIA, escorting an outward-bound convoy with VOLUNTEER. (See Attacks on s/m's.) WREN and WITCH warned.

S/m's Attacked.

2000 By VENETIA (see S/m's Reported) 180 miles S.W. of Berchaven. Details not yet known (A.S.W.D. No. 114).

War Diary

26. 12. 39.
Tuesday.

G E R M A N M E R C H A N T S H I P S.

Home Commands

JOHAN SCHULTE — Arrival 25/12 German ship said to be JOHAN SCHULTE (Narvik 1501/26).

North Atlantic

GLUCKSBURG scuttled. — 2680 tons, left Cadiz 1620/26. H.M.S. WISHART, outside territorial waters, signalled her to stop when 7 miles out, whereupon she beached herself 2 miles south of Chipiona light near Punta del Perro, in 36° 44' N. 6° 26' W. Crew rescued by Spanish CUIDAD DE MELILLA (.F.O. C.N.A. 2202/26.) Probable total loss (Consul Cadiz 1616/1)., to be considered scuttled. Cargo copper ore. (Seville 1400/29). WISHART only entered territorial waters for purpose of life saving, but crew had already abandoned ship. (F.O.C.N.A. 2202/26, 1930/27).

GEDANIA — Sailed from Las Palmas in ballast a.m./24/12. (C. in C.W.A. 1277/26).

America & West Indies.

DUSSELDORF (Prize) — Passed through Panama Canal 25/12, sailed a.m. 26/12. V.C. (presumably German) made representations to Canal authorities that Prize crew be interned and German crew liberated on ground that ship had not been taken before Prize Court. Demand ignored (Minister, Panama 1110/26).

South Atlantic

ALTMARK — Disguised ship, possibly ALTMARK, (with crews of ships sunk by GRAF SPEE on board) sighted by British ship 1930/26 about 50 miles off coast of Brazil between Rio de Janeiro and Bahia and 300 miles from former. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1255/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

French A.M.C.'s and convoys. Positions (F.O.C.N.A. 1122/26) French forces 1200/26 (D.C.0736/26)

British convoys Positions (D.C. 1805/26).

South Atlantic.

AJAX
ACHILLES

ACHILLES will shortly proceed to Simonstown to refit. Propose AJAX remain in station until ACHILLES returns. AJAX has 3 turrets and full speed available (R.A.S.A.D. 1005/26).
Asking earliest date AJAX will be ready to sail from Falkland Is. for repairs in U.K. and proposing visit Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro and Freetown on way home (C. in C.S.A. 1230/26).
Intend visiting Montevideo in AJAX 3/1 and Buenos Aires in AJAX or ACHILLES on 4/1. Will then transfer my flag to ACHILLES, AJAX visit Rio de Janeiro at end of her 3 months interval, viz. 11/1, then sail for Freetown (R.A.S.A.D. 2022/27).

Plate engagement. Exact description (R.A.S.A.D. 1315/26).

Mediterranean

Territorial waters. Question of 3 mile limit and Italian opposition. (C. in C. Med. 1041/28).

Exports control Asking that Governor of Cyprus be supplied with special green Customs War Clearance forms in connection with control of exports to adjacent neutral countries (C. in C. Med. 2019/26).

China

Japanese Movements. Arrivals at Canton. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0259Z/26).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Bombing restrictions For 27/12, 28/12, 29/12 (R.A.(S) 1817/26).

Merchant ship burning S/L. Re. C. in C. Rosyth's 1306/22 and 1820/24, possibly these ships were burning searchlights in bows to assist in evading floating mines. This appears to be general practice. (R.A.(S) 1507/26).

Danish ships By arrangements made in Denmark, Danish ships must not cross North Sea singly. A Danish master has asked to be routed together with another ship. He refused convoy. I refused to route in pairs. Request instructions for further cases (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1301/26).

Suspicious Trawler. Unknown tanker movements arousing suspicion 4 miles off Guernsey. Reported by Customs. No details available.

WEATHER

North Sea and British Isles.

Wind	Visibility	Weather	Outlook
Light, variable.	Moderate to good, except in Channel where it is poor.	Cloudy	No change.

Enemy Intelligence.

War Diary

26.12.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet — REPULSE, BARHAM and 5 destroyers to Northward of Shetlands. 10 destroyers have sailed from Clyde to meet the 2nd Canadian troop convoy.

Scapa Base — Desired to use Scapa as main fleet base as soon as possible. A.C.O.S. to report (C.N.S. 1853/26).

Northern Patrol — In Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser .. 1 A.M.C.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 " 8 "
Orkneys to Faroes - 2 "

Enemy Air Activity. — Nil.

Air Reconnaissance — No results were obtained from the bomber reconnaissance carried out 26th (D.C.N.S.) (Cf. enemy intelligence 25/12).

Casualties TRIUMPH mined — At 23.06, in position 250 miles East of Rosyth, TRIUMPH (Lt. Comr. J.W.McCoy) was damaged by a floating mine and is unable to dive. (D.C.N.S.) Hit mine bows on 2306/26 (in the German mined area on meridian 5° E), 56° 44' N. 5° 0' E. No casualties. (TRIUMPH, Patrol Report, Capt.(S)2. No. 04087/30/12/39).

Operation L.A. — IVANHOE and INTREPID to lay a line of mines off N.E. coast, extending 3 miles in direction 335° from position 55° 33' N. 0° 20' W. (Adty. 2150/26).

Clyde Patrol — Patrol of River Clyde by volunteer organisation commenced this morning between Bowling and Newark Castle. Other stretches as boats become available. (F.O.i/c Clyde 1746/26).

Clyde area Commands. — Recommendations re general organisation of commands in Clyde area (C. in C.H.F. 1700/26).

Dover Defences — Proposed reduction. Protests by V.A. Dover. (V.A.Dover 1131/26). (Proposal by W.O. was to send 4 - 3.7 inch guns to Portsmouth. Particularly inappropriate moment to reduce Dover defences, with inauguration of M.T. and leave boat service.

Suspicious Belgian Trawlers — Belgian trawlers, possibly flying Dutch colours, have been reported acting suspiciously. Trawlers of any nationality acting suspiciously to be boarded and if any doubt exists sent in for examination (F.O.C.N.P. 1310/26). (Note: Two were brought in for examination and a number have been examined. Nothing suspicious found in either case. A friendly Belgian trawler skipper told the S.O.(I) "it was common talk amongst them that several had found a better way of making money than catching fish." (NID.8/4).

War Diary

27 Wednesday 12 39.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

TORWOOD
? sunk by S/m

Norwegian 254 tons, sunk probably in collision with s/m at 0100/27 in approx. 58° 20' N. 3° 17' E. (Oslo 1800/30). Cargo of carbide (Reuter)

S/m's reported

0430 L.V.No. 87 in vicinity of Smith's Knoll sighted an enemy s/m coming alongside L.V. was hailed and asked his name. S/m sheered off. Reported N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1.1.1940 by Captain of RECULVER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1245/2).

0435 102° V.D.V.S. 73 (D.N.I.1721/27) WREN, WITCH ordered to attack (C. in C.W.A. 0945/27).

S/m's attacked

By VENETIA and VOLUNTEER 59°30' N. 13° 0' W. Result unknown. (D.C. 2008/27)

War Diary.

27. 12. 39.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Home Commands

LEDA — Left here in ballast 1420/27proceeding eastward (Arendal 1445/27).
Sure secret source reports that 2 German ships arrived at Leningrad 27/12. YERMAK went out to bring in German ships. Owing to heavy ice only 2 or 3 ships can be brought in to the harbour at the same time. (N.I.D. XI/9.

Mediterranean

ATLAS — Barcelona report of 18/12 says this vessel ordered 200 tons of fuel oil and 100 tons of potatoes and is believed to be preparing to sail. She arrived Barcelona 31st August. (I.C. 0311/39).

North Atlantic

GEDANIA — Has arrived Las Palmas (C. in C.W.A. 1153/27). Left Teneriffe in ballast. (V.A.N.P. 2314/27).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — Embargo on her temporarily (Cable censorship). By Lamport and Holt representing the British owned cargo. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0045/27)

CONDOR — W/T sealed (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2208/27)

BAHIA ANTONIO-DELFINO — All German ships are in anchorage, BAHIA ready for sea. ANTONIO DELFINO has received 200 tons of oil fuel and estimated to have about 700 tons on board, has also taken ballast bringing her stern to mark; though much by the stern I believe her seaworthy. Watch is being kept. BOLLWERK and MACEIO still light and unlikely to leave. (Consul, Bahia 0814/27).

China

Japanese ship 362 discharged 182 drums engine oil 522 packets general cargo for German ships at Curacao 17/12 (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1838/27).

War Diary.

27. 12. 39.
Wednesday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

Mediterranean

Movements — S.O.(I) Malta 1113/27.

East Indies

Contraband Control. — Ships should be allowed to proceed without verification of cargo if this cannot be done at sea by Perim Patrol. Not to be sent back to Aden for verification. (D.E.W.D. 1832/27).

North Atlantic.

Iberia Air Line — No German personnel remain with Iberial Commercial Air Line (Palma, Mallorca 1950/27).

Convoys positions. — D.C. 1845/27.

America & West Indies

Broadcasting movements. — D.N.I. informs me Navy Dept. will certainly not permit broadcast of movements of any belligerent vessels (N.A. Washington 1234/27).

South Atlantic

Re. visits of ACHILLES to Buenos Aires and AJAX to Montevideo. (N.A. Buenos Aires 2055/27). Suggested account of action be given in Argentine Naval Club during visit. (R.A.S.A.D. 1119/27).

China

EMPRESS OF CANADA. Leakage of information concerning movements. (C. in C. China 0555/27).

War Diary. 27.12.1939,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Force K, NEPTUNE. Unwilling to detach NEPTUNE from Force K. Latter needs to have an attached vessel of high speed and endurance for investigating merchant ships. (C. in C., S.A., 1250/26). This always was Admiralty intention (1st S.L., 1811/27).

AJAX. Asking whether AJAX can be retained. (R.A.S.A.D., 0954/27). Not to be relieved by another 6-in. cruiser. (1st S.L., 1811/27).

Cruiser Strength. C. in C. S.A.'s 1730/22 to R.A.S.A.D. Only one 6-in. cruiser will be stationed on East Coast of South America. Movements of A.M.C.'s should not be restricted to provide support. (D.O.D.(F), 1810/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Destroyers Withdrawn. Owing to urgent requirements for destroyers in home waters, 2nd D.F., now on America and West Indies Station and South Atlantic Station, is to be withdrawn and sailed for United Kingdom as soon as convenient. (C.N.S., 1831/27).

MEditerranean.

Destroyers and A.M.C.'s. Consequent on the withdrawal of 2nd D.F. from Atlantic, four "D" class destroyers now in the Mediterranean and not under orders for U. K. are to be sailed as soon as possible to join C. in C., S. Atlantic. To assist C. in C., Mediterranean, in continuing exercise of contraband control, two A.M.C.'s are being sent to reinforce his command. (C.N.S., 1831/27).

River Gunboats. Decided that two Aphis class gunboats are to be placed in reserve at Malta (D.O.D.(F), 1653/28).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence.

LEIPZIG HIPPER GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST	Report received that cruisers LEIPZIG and HIPPER were still at Wilhelmshaven on 24/12, former in a damaged condition. It appears possible that battle cruisers GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST were still in Wilhelmshaven area on that date (I.C. 0311/39).
Borkum Balloon Barrage.	Dutch Naval authorities report that a balloon barrage is now in position at Borkum.
Prize ships	There are 60 prize ships in Hamburg (Deutschlandsender 1810/27). Press reports that a number of Swedish vessels detained by Germany have been released following conclusion of trade talks in Berlin between the two countries.
LESTRIS	Swedish, 2615 tons, from Sundstall for Baltimore has been seized and taken to a German port for examination.
Secret Channel	Channel used by enemy warships (R.A.(S) 0035/27/12/39 amended by 1534/2/40) (Former not seen).
Kitovaia Bay Naval Base.	No confirmation of Press reports that Germans have established a naval base at Kitovaia Bay, 6 miles from Murmansk. The exact location of this base is doubtful and in view of the time of year it seems improbable (N.I.D.XI/10, 5.1.40.)

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR

KIROV FINNISH	Confirmed by Finnish General Staff that the ~~Russian~~ battery at Hango has damaged the cruiser KIROV. Taken to Libau, repairs to take about 4 months (Rome Radio 1818, 6.1.40) See 5.1.40.
Ice in Gulf of Bothnia.	Ice conditions in Gulf of Bothnia are rapidly precluding the possibility of Russian submarine action in this area.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

56° 0' N. 2° 28' E. by patrolling a/c's. who were assisting surface vessels to cover TRIUMPH. At 1240 three unidentified a/c's. were reported 15 miles E. of Horusea

Folkestone Minefield — Further laying of the deep minefield off Folkestone (S.C.3) was carried out.

Operation L.A. — IVANHOE to commence laying about 0830/30 (IVANHOE 1048/27, 1703/27, D.D.O.D.(M) 1915/27. Leaves Portsmouth 2330/28 to carry out operation L.A. (C. in C.Nore 1047/28).

Convoys from Gibraltar — Homeward convoys from Gibraltar are to be divided so that a "fast" division will proceed at 16 knots and a slow division more slowly than at present. (D.S.)

Downs — Two convoys (127 ships) cleared from the Downs today, leaving 85 ships anchored. Four collisions occurred in the fog.

Routeing — Vessels bound between Narvik and U.K. ports are to be routed independently, keeping well clear of Norwegian coast. (D.T.D. 1118/27).

French cruisers — Arrivals at Belfast 1030/27 (N.O.i/c Belfast 1225/27).

Bombing restrictions — For today (R.A.(S) 0234/27).

S/m's positions — 0700/27 (D.C.1903/27) 1903/26, 0749/27, 0700/28 (D.C.2033/27 corrected by 2216/27).

Safe area near Heligoland — Most important it should be discovered. Present state of knowledge etc. (R.A.(S) 0035/27).

Nore Command Movements — To 0700/28 (C. in C. Nore, 0618/27)

Western Approaches — Disposition of forces 1800/27 (C. in C.W.A. 1840/27).

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	N. Force 4 - 6	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef	Variable, light.	Good.
Channel	N. Force 2 - 6.	Moderate to good.
W. Approaches	W.N.W. Force 3.	Good.
	Outlook:- Showers.	

War Diary. 27.12.1939,
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

add TRIUMPH, (mined). Intercept from TRIUMPH, struck floating mine, unable to dive, request escort. Escort from 12th D.F. and air asked from Rosyth. (C.in C., H.F., 0258/27). Escorts being sent (C.in C., Rosyth, 0211/27),0212/27). Orders to air escort (H.Q.C.C., 0135/27). Requesting air escort (R.A.S., 0214/27), Your 0214/27, air escort arranged (C.in C.,Rosyth,0255/ TRUANT to escort and assist (R.A.S., 0207/27). 27. Orders to Capt D.12 (C. in C.,Rosyth, 1105/27). 1105/27 cancelled. As sighted from air, possibility of surface attack. One destroyer to be in touch with TRIUMPH, remaining four concentrated as a protective force. Convoys postponed. (C.in C., Rosyth, 1256/27), 1224/27). TRUANT ordered to return Rosyth (R.A.S., 1811/27). Report of aircraft in contact with TRIUMPH (C. in C. Rosyth, 1732/27). ECLIPSE+ sailed to reinforce D.12. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2151/27).

War Diary

27. 12. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet

REPULSE, BARHAM and 5 destroyers on patrol N.E. of Shetlands until 1600, 27th, when they return to Clyde.
HOOD leaving Clyde p.m. today to take over the patrol.

Northern Patrol.

In Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser 1 A.M.C.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 " 8 "
Orkneys to Faroes - 1 "

Air Reconnaissance

In addition to normal reconnaissance, the west coast of Norway is being covered from Lister Light to North Fjord to locate the 20 German merchantmen which passed the Great Belt on 25/12 should they be proceeding up the Norwegian coast.

A photographic reconnaissance of Wilhelmshaven was undertaken by Bomber Command today. One of the 2 a/c's. failed to return. The other reported a number of German ships including two warships either cruisers or destroyers, in the harbour and one s/m between Schillig Point and Mellum Is. Photography was not possible owing to lenses freezing. (Hq. Bomber Command 1900/27, 2100/27). But cf. HQ. Bomber Command 1630/27, which says 24 photos were taken.
At 1330 a/c's. sighted 2 destroyers and 4 minesweepers off Borkum; bombs were dropped and one minesweeper was hit. Hudson Battle Flight shot down a flying boat at 1057.
Standard Reconnaissances; Task numbers allotted. (Coastal Command 1650/27).

Ports Re-opened

Ports of Sunderland, Blyth and the Tyne are now open again. (D.S.)

Casualties

TRIUMPH

TRIUMPH, mined and damaged 26th, is returning to Rosyth at 7 knots. Five destroyers left Rosyth 0400 to escort her back. TRUANT (50 miles S.W. of TRIUMPH) has been ordered to close TRIUMPH. Air escort arranged from dawn. Destroyers should make contact about noon 29th. She arrived off May Island 0700/28. No casualties. About 10ft. of bows blown away. Air protection was arranged.

Enemy air activity

At least 7 Naval reconnaissance a/c's were located over the North Sea. At 0525 an unidentified a/c was sighted on a westerly course 15 miles E. of Smith's Knoll. At 1002 in 56°8' N. 5° 18' E. one of our patrolling a/c's. attacked 2 enemy flying boats, one of which was hit by machine gun fire. The enemy were flying low and our a/c's. also carried out unsuccessful dive bombing attacks. At 1030 in 51° 38' N. 1° 34' E. a trawler reported that she was being attacked by enemy a/c's. At 1057 in 56° 10' N. 3° 15' E. an unsuccessful engagement took place between a Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons and one enemy flying boat. At 1145 eight enemy a/c's. were reported

in/

12-18 missing.
Some others in triplicate

War Diary. 1.10.39. Oct 39
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. NELSON, RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HOOD, REPULSE and 11th and 16th Divisions left Scapa for Port A after dark. RENOWN, ROYAL OAK at Scapa.

Humber Force At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. Between Orkney Is. and Faroe Is. DUNEDIN and DIOMEDE on patrol.
About this date the following A.M.Cs. were allotted to the Patrol; in addition to the existing cruisers:- ASTURIAS, CALIFORNIA, MONTCLARE, SALOPIAN, ASCANIA, SCOTSTOUN, JERVIS BAY, AURANIA, ALAUNIA. Full quota of Northern Patrol to be 25 ships.

18th Destroyer Flotilla. Organisation: 35th Division (5 destroyers) under Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches.
36th Division (4 destroyers) under Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.

JAN VAN GELDER Dutch Naval minesweeper, reported blown up on mine near Terschelling early a.m. 1/10.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ELSA ESSBERGER Believed to be intending to sail from Nagasaki (S.O.(I) Singapore).

STASSFURT Secret sailing contemplated from Tjilitjap, Java, but considered unlikely in view of mined channel and difficult pilotage (S.O.(I) Singapore).

ANNELISE ESSBERGER. Tanker. Ready to leave Nagasaki at first opportunity. Took in more oil fuel 29.9.

ELBE Believed to be intending to sail (S.O.(I) Singapore).

LINDENFELS, MONI RICKMERS, SOPHIE RICKMERS, WASGENWALD, WERDENFELS All keeping steam and fully manned at Sabang but considered most improbable they could act as A.M.Cs. (S.O.(I) Singapore 1330/1).

America and West Indies.

Report from Caracas, Dutch W.I., that German merchant ships, 7 at Curacao and 4 at Aruba preparing to leave. Suggested they may mak other neutral ports, e.g. Canaries, Spain, Dominica, Honduras, Brazil or Cuba, but pr not Venezuela.

North Atlantic.

Consul, Madeira, reports negotiations fo to Italian flag of 4 German merchant shi including 2 tankers in Canaries, have br down. (I.C.0221/39).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

~~The news~~ (M.O. 16672/39. H.M.S. EXETER L. of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39.) that a German raider was operating off the East coast of South America in the Pernambuco area was received by Commodore South America Division (Commodore H.H. Harwood) at 2130/1/10, subsequent signals stated that the S.S. CLEMENT had been sunk about 75 miles South of Pernambuco by the ADMIRAL SCHEER. Cdre. S.A.D. was not at all sure at this stage whether it really had been a pocket battleship and was reluctant to abandon completely the Plate area, owing to the very large amount of valuable British shipping there. He thought it possible that the appearance of a raider to the Northward was intended to draw him away from the focal points of trade.

0340/2/10 Cdre. S.A.D. informed C.-in-C. S.A. that he intended to concentrate EXETER and AJAX sending HOTSPUR to cover Rio de Janeiro - Santos area and keeping HAVOC in Plate for same purpose. (Note. at 1930/1/10 Cdre. S.A.D. received Adty. 1859/1/10 ordering 4th Destroyer Division to be retained in South Atlantic; this message cancelled Adty. 1329/28/9 ordering the 4th Division to be withdrawn from South Atlantic owing to serious shortage of destroyers at home). Sailings of merchant vessels at Rio de Janeiro and Santos were suspended for four days, to give time for HOTSPUR to arrive in that area, which had now been vacated by AJAX who was ordered to join Cdre. S.A.D. in 32° 40'S 48°W at 1700/3/10. The R.F.A. oiler OLWEN was ordered to proceed to Montevideo using mechanical defects as excuse.

1001/2/10 p.m. C-in-C S.A. ordered Cdre. S.A.D. to concentrate EXETER, AJAX and the two destroyers in the Rio de Janeiro area. The Commodore, however, felt justified in departing from these orders and kept HAVOC in the Plate, until a report from Bahia confirmed that the CLEMENT had been sunk by ADMIRAL SCHEER. By 1300/4/10 all four ships were concentrated.

War Diary. 1.10.39.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

SUZON sunk. 1850 Belgian S.S. SUZON (2239 tons) was sunk by torpedo from s/m 42 miles North of Ushant. Crew rescued by ACHERON.

S/ms reported.

a.m. 1030 By Dutch S.S. JURA off Galloper Lt.V. 51°44'N.2°E. 48°43' N. 4° 58' W. Portuguese S.S.ALFERREDE was stopped by U-boat.

0730 70 miles N.E. Ushant, Greek GEORG EMBIRICOS was stopped, papers examined, allowed to proceed.

p.m. 5 miles off Naze, Norway, 57°53' N. 7° 2' E, Finnish S.S. FRITZ sighted submarine steering east.

? Estonian S.S. JAAK sighted unknown submarine 8 miles off Okso Lt. Norway, 57° 55' N. 8° 2' E.

S/ms attacked.

1455 51° 12½' N. 4° 22' W. ECLIPSE attacked with 1 D/C, some trace of oil. Further 2 D/C's, no further evidence. Fair contact. (I.C.0221/39).

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S.

Re. disposition of cruisers, see HOME COMMANDS.

South Atlantic

Sailings suspended — Sailings of merchant vessels suspended for four days from Rio de Janeiro and Santos (on account of raider).

American safety zone — Three hundred mile safety zone created (? date) in which belligerents are prohibited.

NEPTUNE, CUMBERLAND, HYPERION, HUNTER operating in South Atlantic near Ascension, have not reported locating German ships and are due to arrive at Freetown 2/10 (See 28/9).

S/m. — Japanese trawler PRESIDENT EROCA under Argentine flag was stopped by s/m and gave s/m fish, about 33°S. 53° W. (I.C.0228/39).

China

Gun boats — First two to be withdrawn sailed for Hong Kong. The Chinese Govt. were informed that 5 of our Yangtze gun boats are being withdrawn and will be sent back after the war. The French have also decided to withdraw the crews of their gun boats in Chinese waters, but have not yet done so.

LINDENFELS, WERDENFELS — Reported by Captain on Staff TERROR these vessels at Sabang discharged their Lascar crews 30/9.

REGENSBURG, ELBE, ODENWALD, SPREEWALD — At Yokohama, Consul reports discharging cargo into ELBE. Both ships and ODENWALD and SPREEWALD taking in provisions. This may be indication of early intention to sail.

North Atlantic

ANTARKTIS — Tanker. Consul, Vigo, reports she has risen 2½ ft. at bow since 29/9, sunk 1 ft. at stern, risen about 1 ft. amidships, though there has been no discharge by daylight.

America & West Indies.

Reported from Kingston, Jamaica, that U.S.A. is basing a destroyer patrol on Port-au-Prince, Haiti, presumably as part of the neutrality enforcement precautions which are already in force along the coast of Cuba.

East Indies

Reported from Aden that a gun, probably 6 inch, has been mounted at Sheikh Said, opposite Perim, and that a second concrete emplacement has been built there, presumably by the King of the Yemen.

War Diary

2. 10. 39.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

BARRWHIN **escaped** 0014 (5,000 tons) missed by torpedo 20 miles South of Needles, in convoy, 50° 17' N. 1° 30' W.

BALTIC **sunk** SS. BALTIC (Finnish 451 tons) mined off Falsterbo. Crew saved.

ACHERON **escaped** 0300 ACHERON unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo 15 miles Ushant 296°.

S/m's reported.

It now seems clear that s/m's. outward bound to the Atlantic are passing through Fair Island Channel and there are indications that those intending to return via the Skaw and Kattigat or via Horns Reef pass N. of Muckle Flugga and down the Norwegian coast, probably first making Utvoer Light (61° 3' N. 4° 31' E.) as they did in the last war (IC.0221/39)

0245 40 miles E. of Outer Dowsing Trawler BELLONA sighted s/m (? U-boat) cruised round then proceeded in a westerly direction.

0000 Off Peterhead, by civilian from shore. Considered authentic. (IC.0221/39)

1843 55° 45' N. 5° 46' E. position doubtful.

0157 By SEAHORSE 50° 31' N. 2° 22' W. off Firth of Tay. (IC.0221/39)

1230 2 s/m's. reported passed the Belts northbound.

0450 57° N. 8° 0' E. Reliable source. (IC. 0221/39).

2003 57° N. 5° E. Position doubtful.

0000/0130 57° N. 5° E. Finnish SS. AIRISTO stopped searched and asked for bread.

North Atlantic 1200 38° 30' N. 12° 35' W. 2 large s/m's. on surface. Lisbon forwards as "reliable".

2030 Pilot cutter reported s/m acting suspiciously off No.1 buoy, R. Tay. (see 1820 below).

0900 One s/m, 500 tons, reported off Christiansand.

S/m's attacked.

1725 KEITH and MONTROSE 50° 17' N. 1° 30' W. 1st attack heavy oil. 2nd attack large air bubbles, no appreciable oil.

1820 JERVIS, JAGUAR each attacked contacts off Bell Rock, River Tay. No visible results.

2230 French patrol boat was attacked by torpedo from s/m 49° 51' N. 0° 17' W. (30 miles N. Havre) and replied with d/c's. No known result.

War Diary

2. 10. 39.
Monday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S.

Home Fleet

NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, REPULSE with 11th and 12th Divisions arrived at Port A. 0700.
FURIOUS and 4 destroyers left Rosyth for Port A.
NORFOLK changing a gun at Rosyth, then to proceed with SUFFOLK to Mediterranean.
ROYAL OAK at Scapa.
Remainder at Port A.

Detached Squadron

Re disposition of Naval forces consequent on report of raider (ADMIRAL SCHEER) off N.E. coast of South America. Cruisers on foreign stations being concentrated in strong groups in the more important areas, the older 6 inch cruisers relieving 8 inch cruisers so as to free the latter for this purpose.
RENOWN, ARK ROYAL proceeding South.
EFFINGHAM, ENTERPRISE, EMERALD on passage to Devonport to make good minor defects and prepare for tropical service.

Humber Force

SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol

6 cruisers on patrol, 4 being between Faroes and Iceland. COLOMBO, CERES, CARADOC arrived to take places of EFFINGHAM, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE on this patrol.

Aircraft Reconnaissances

In addition to normal patrols over the North Sea an anti-s/m patrol is being carried out between Montrose and Fifeness.

Minefield.

Third lay of Folkestone - Gris Nez minefield completed.

Enemy Intelligence.

GENERAL

ARTIGAS

Large passenger ship, believed to be this ship, arrived Narvik 1600/2. Last reported in S. American waters. Left Buenos Aires 1/9.

ARION

Left Oslo 2/10.

BISCAYA

Tanker. Reported arrived Tenerife 1/10 from Santa Conzde le Palma.

BORKUM

Reported left Buenos Aires 1/10 (arrived Monte Video 2/9).
Reports indicate that German destroyers and s/m's. are continuing to attack neutral shipping in Skagerrak and vicinity.

War Diary. 3.10.39.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. At Port A. FURIOUS arrived at Port A.

Humber Force SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH at Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. 6 cruisers on patrol.

Detached squadron EFFINGHAM, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE arrived at Devonport to make good defects before proceeding South.

Air Reconnaissances. Normal patrols over North Sea. Anti-submarine patrol between Dyce and Girdleness.

Explosion. At 2100 explosion near eastern end of detached mole at Dover. No casualties. Probably a mine driven ashore.

Enemy Intelligence.

BOLTENHAGEN — Press report that Dutch sailors recently discharged from this ship at Murmansk state there are already 42 German ships refuging there. BOLTENHAGEN reported from Tromso passing south 1100/3.

HAMM, LUBECK — Reported left Reykjavik about 2300/2.

GENERAL ARTIGAS — 11,250 tons, reached Narvik 3/10. (Arrived Trondjhem 6/10, left dawn 7/10).

WEATHER.

Most unfavourable for attacks on submarines.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE left Suez a.m.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND and DESPATCH left Freetown p.m.

America and West Indies.

S/ms reported. 0030 British S.S. ARMINDA reports unknown s/m 15 miles N.W. of Puerto Colombia (11° 0' N. 75° 2' W.)

RHAKOTIS
HERMONTHIS
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN

Reported due to sail from Callao night 3/10 or 4/10 and due to be met by 3 submarines and subsequently DEUTSCHLAND or GRAF SPEE which will arm them. The last report received of whereabouts of DEUTSCHLAND was 22/9 and of SPEE 24/9 when both were reported in the Wilhelmshaven area.

North Atlantic.

CHEMNITZ which was captured by French submarine was brought into Casablanca by French Squadron 3/10.

War Diary. 3.10.39.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

DIAMANTIS sunk. 1700 Greek S.S. DIAMANTIS (4990 tons) sunk by submarine 49° 22' N. 6° 46' W. Submarine landed survivors (see 4/10).

S/ms reported. 30 miles E. of Cape Wrath. Search by aircraft. No result.

1502 5 miles off Lands End by S.S. PHILIPH.

1600 59° 30' N. 5° E, submarine about 800 tons. Possibly No.26.

War Diary. 3.10.39
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

(M.016672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39.

C-in-C S.A. 1835/3/10 directed that on CUMBERLAND (left Freetown, Sierra Leone 3/10) rejoining Cdre. S.A.D., AJAX and ACHILLES and the 2 destroyers were to be used for trade protection in the local areas, while EXETER and CUMBERLAND, concentrated as a hunting unit, carried out an initial sweep as far north as possible consistent with their endurance.
Adty. 2332/3 ordered that in order to restrict the activities of German raiders in South Atlantic great care must be taken not to accept for his temporary benefit such departures from strict neutrality laws as might prove to be to his disadvantage should the enemy obtain reciprocal concessions. In view of necessity of making more use of Falkland Is. for fuelling and provisioning Cdre. S.A.D. requested that a reserve stock of Naval Victualling and Canteen stores should be sent to Port Stanley for his use. He emphazised the desirability of keeping large valuable ships out of Pernambuco area where our trade was relatively small and where, owing to fuelling restrictions it was proving impossible to maintain a patrol in that area. (Cdre. S.A.D 1852/7) He therefore recommended that cargoes for U.K. should be sent to Rio de Janeiro in local steamers for subsequent shipment Home.

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Home Fleet — At Port A.

Northern Patrol — Six cruisers on patrol.

Air Reconnaissances — Normal patrols.

Enemy Air Activity — At least 2 German a/c's. were reported at Firth of Forth 0830 - 0900, and one a/c at 30,000 ft. approximately 60 miles E. of Scapa (IC.0225/39)
One a/c 1250 flying near Leuchars at 1,000 ft.
3 a/c's were located in the Bight in the early afternoon.
A flying boat sighted by a/c in approx. 58° 10' N. 3° 50' E. was shadowed from 1050-1150 on a N.W. course. It was eventually lost to sight steering N.
1100 large German flying boat reported to have been observed by two trawlers 13-14 miles E.
Tyne flying very low.

Convoys — FN.16 cancelled on account of weather.

Explosion — 0050 explosion, probably from mine driven ashore in Langdon Bay near root of eastern breakwater. No casualties.

Enemy Intelligence

WALTER RAU — Whale factory ship is reported laid up in river outside Hamburg disguised.

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

China

HOEGH TRANSPORTER sunk — Norwegian (4914 tons) was sunk by mine on declared British minefield at entrance to Singapore, through disregard of British warning. Crew saved.

North Atlantic

S/m's. 1100 — Portuguese authorities report two s/m's. N.W. of Fogo Island, Cape Verde Is. (IC.0226/39).

OSTMARK — German seaplace NORDWIND arrived Las Palmas from Gando p.m. 4/10 and was hoisted aboard OSTMARK which subsequently moved out into the roads.

SAMOS — Now reported laid up at Venice.

MADRID — Las Palmas reports considerable engineering activities aboard this ship and in German workshops ashore; both funnels being painted black with letters "DR" in white.

ASUNNCION — At Las Palmas, black funnel having letters "DR" painted on in white. Anticipated that these two above ships may sail shortly.

America & West Indies

Convoy KJ3 — KJ3 left Jamaica. Important convoy with 19 oilers and is to be escorted the whole way home. (Arrived off South Ireland 25/10)

War Diary

4. 10. 39.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked

GLENFARG **sunk**

SS. GLENFARG (876 tons) torpedoed 58° 52' N. 1° 54' W. (approx.) 25 miles E. of Orkneys (60 miles S.S.W. Sumburgh Hd., Shetlands). FIREDRAKE rescued 6 survivors, 1 dead.

1745-1810. Unknown ship heard by amateur wireless operator sending S.O.S. "sinking off Malin Head" (? BELLGRAVIAN ex-Patras 26/9 for Liverpool).

S/m's. reported

0300 French trawler reported U-boat 8 miles N.E. Isle de Bas (55 miles E. of Ushant) proceeding Westward (I.C.0226/39).

1112 60° 18' N. 0° 50' W. s/m reported on surface, then dived, proceeding South. Not thought reliable by F.O.C.O.S.

1225 57° 17' N. 5° 17' E. by a/c.

1800 S/m landed 28 of crew of Greek SS. DIAMANTIS (sunk 3/10) at Ballymore, Dingle Bay, Ireland.

1100 Portuguese authorities report 2 s/m's. N.W. of Figo I. (Cape Verde Is.).

WWarDiary. 5.10.39.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Home Fleet. C.in C. Home Fleet with NELSON, RODNEY, HOOD, REPULSE and FURIOUS left Port A. at 1900 and returned to Scapa.

Humber Force. At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol. Six cruisers on patrol.

Detached Forces. See Adty. 1409/5.

Operations. SEAWOLF on patrol in Zone C 2 fired two torpedoes at cruiser of NUREMBERG class without result, as enemy altered course 140° during attack.

Aircraft Reconnaissances.
(a) Normal patrols.
(b) Special patrol from Shetlands to 62° N. (100 miles N. of Shetlands)
(c) Special reconniassance of entrance to Skagerrak to confirm reports of a continuous German patrol and to attack if circumstances prove favourable.

Contraband Control. 91 ships (neutral) 439,490 tons under British Contraband Control in U.K. ports 5/10.

2 ships (British) 11,545 tons do.

Swedish Patrol. The Swedish west coast fleet (1 battleship, 2 destroyers, 2 S/ms. and a number of small ships) as well as 100 merchant vessels, has begun to patrol Swedish territorial waters.

Enemy Intelligence.

Skagerrak Patrol. The Germans are reported to have a patrol of destroyers, S/ms. and seaplanes across the Skagerrak, operating contraband control service.

On 22/11 information was received from Captain of S.S.DANMARK, (Danish) that he was boarded 1200/5 11 miles North of Hirshals by 2 German destroyers. Entire ship's company photographed and numerous photographs of ship taken. Clearance papers including green clearance were seized. Object was probably duplication of papers and imitation of ship (V.A.N.P. 1536/22)

WEATHER.

Has been deteriorating on all coasts of British Isles.

War Diary. 5. 10. 1939,
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Destruction of German Raiders.

Policy and Dispositions. Admiralty policy for dealing with German raiders on trade routes. Hunting groups to be formed as follows:-

F.	BERWICK and YORK.	N. America and W. Indies.
G.	CUMBERLAND and EXETER.	E. Coast of S. America.
H.	SUSSEX and SHROPSHIRE.	Cape of Good Hope area.
I.	CORNWALL, DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE.	Ceylon area.
K.	RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and one 6" gun cruiser.	Pernambuco-Freetown area.
L.	DUNKERQUE, 3-6" gun cruisers and BEARN.	Brest.
M.	2 - 8" gun cruisers.	Dakar.
N.	STRASBOURG, HERMES.	To West Indies.

(D.C.N.S., 1409/5).

NEPTUNE, HARDY. NEPTUNE acting as ocean escort for Convoy S L 4. Request whether HARDY and 3rd Division are to operate with Force K. (C.in C.,S.A.,1835/6) Reply, D.O.D. (H), 1656/7.

French "Force de Raid". D.O.D. (H), 1719/5.

Force "M", "N" and "Y". Force M to be known as 1st Division of Cruisers. Force N in future to be known as Force Y. When in company these two forces to be known as Force X (D.O.D. (F),2248/7).

Forces G, H, K. General operational control groups G, H, K will be under C. in C., South Atlantic, in order to co-ordinate their movements. (C. in C., S.A., 1001/9).

Atlantic Convoys.

Escorts. RESOLUTION, REVENGE, EMERALD and ENTERPRISE to be sailed in company for Halifax, each to carry bullion embarked at Portland and Devonport. Ships will subsequently be employed singly on escort duties with HX convoys and reinforced later by EFFINGHAM. (D.O.D. (F), 1822/5).

French Movements. To Dakar, Oran, and submarines to Martinique. (N.L.O., Marceau, 0920/5)

War Diary.

5.10.39.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/m. bases. — S/m. bases are suspected in Canary Is.

OSTMARK. — German seaplane NORDWIND arrived Las Palmas from Gando p.m. 4/10 and was hoisted aboard OSTMARK which subsequently moved out into the roads. Reported one seaplane was catapulted a.m./5/10. Seaplane NORDWIND was catapulted off 1615 5/10, flew to Gando and disappeared in N.E. direction. Seaplane NORDMEER arrived from Gando 1640 and was catapulted off at 1940, heading North. (I.C.O. 227/39)

Mediterranean.

RAMILLIES. — RAMILLIES left Gibraltar 1215 for Halifax.

America and West Indies.

Reuter's Santiago office reported periscope of German s/m seen by Chilean Naval Officer in Valparaiso harbour.

STONEGATE sunk. — DEUTSCHLAND sank the S.S. STONEGATE (tons) 500 miles East of Bermuda.

U.S.A. patrol. — Reported that U.S.A. is to institute a regular patrol of the Pacific coast by some 40 cruisers and destroyers.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN ...

War Diary

5.10.39.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

(MO16672/39 H.M.S. EXETER L.of P. 20/9/39 - 27/10/39)

Adty. 1409/5 laid down policy for dealing with ocean raiders. EXETER and CUMBERLAND became Force G. operating in the Rio de Janeiro - Plate focal areas.

Owing to the small volume of shipping leaving Rio de Janeiro Cdre. S.A.D. suggested to Consular shipping advisers there and at Santos that the local convoy systems from these ports should be suspended and that Allied ships should in future be routed independently.

Note. CUMBERLAND joined Cdre. S.A.D. 0500/9/10

WAR DIARY

5.10.39
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked

MARWARRI beached. (8066 tons) was mined or torpedoed (Master believes the former) near Scarweather Lt.V. off Swansea. Beached inside Mumbles. Area declared dangerous.

Submarines reported

2050 — 16.5 miles 94° Beachy Head by MARY SLESSOR. Submarine on surface (I.C.0226/39).

1830 — Reported by destroyer 50°55'N. 1°20'E. Aircraft searched with no result.

1740 — FRANKLIN sighted periscope 310° 9 miles from Calais High Light. BRAZEN investigated (I.C.0226/39).

1715 — ST.EUNAN reported submarine clearly seen off Arklow, E.Coast Eire (I.C.0227/39).

1000 — Camouflaged submarine about 340 tons 69°N. 17'E. (I.C.0226/39).

1700 — One large submarine ?N.Cape (I.C.0226/39).

North Atlantic.

Reports of two large submarines off Lisbon.

1300 — Portuguese report submarine sighted from two points 5 miles West Nazare (Portugal) 39°36'N. 9°2[illegible]W. (I.C.0227/39).

Submarines attacked.

1600 — Aircraft attacked submarine 51°33'N. 4°9'W. (3 miles S. of Oxwich Head.) (I.C.0226/39).

6. 10. 39
Friday.

H O M E C O M M A N D S

Home Fleet — At Scapa, less ROYAL SOVEREIGN (see 7/10)
SHEFFIELD arrived at Invergordon 0045.
H.M. the King visited the Home Fleet at Scapa 6/10 and 7/10.

Humber Force — At Rosyth.

Northern Patrol — Six cruisers on patrol. There are now 7 A.M.C.'s at Scapa.

Air Reconnaissance — Most of the air patrols and the special air reconnaissance flight to Skagerrak were cancelled owing to weather. (Was to have arrived 1030. Bomber squadrons standing by to attack suitable targets if located.

Amsterdam open — The port of Amsterdam was re-opened to British shipping (D.T.D. 2306/6).

WEATHER

Wind reached gale force 0700. Gale then subsided on all coasts.

Enemy Intelligence.

Flying boats — Fishing trawlers from Grimsby report that German flying boats are frequently seen on patrol in area bounded as follows:-

53° 50' N.	53° 0' N.	53° 50' N.	53°0' N.
1° 20' E.	2° 0' E.	2° 20' E.	2°40'E.

They were last seen on 5/10 and 6/10. There are never more than 2 a/c's. together. In most cases they fly very low over the fishing fleet, about 200-500 ft. No trawlers have been molested so far.

Mines seen — In the same area approx. 25 floating horned mines were found, the majority painted red. (I.C.0228/39)

U-boat supplies — It is believed that U-boats are getting supplies from about a dozen German trawlers which have passed up into Northern waters by making careful use of neutral territorial waters.

A cruiser of the NURNBERG class was sighted 30 miles West of the Skaw.

"Flakschiffe" — Believed that small craft of trawler type, converted river steamers and even lighters, some perhaps with A.A. armament, are used on a/c observation duties. It is not known whether they maintain fixed positions or are under way, the former is more likely. It appears they may be encountered anywhere in the Heligoland Bight East of 6° E. or South of 55° N. Most reports of these vessels have emanated from positions on a line Borkum Riff Lt. V. to 54° 35' N., 6° 10' E. and a line Borkum Riff Lt. V. to 54° N. 8° E.

This world

be continued

on the next Reel.

ENDING OF

REEL K-1

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

~~War Diary~~ Admiralty	War Diary

ONI

DATE: April 10 1946

MACH. NO. 1702

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Skaggs